

Tokyo opposition quits debate on Gulf plan

TOKYO (R) — Opposition parties Tuesday boycotted debate on a law allowing Japan to send troops to the Gulf, and an opinion poll indicated most voters were also against the proposal.

A spokesman for the main opposition Japan Socialist Party in the Lower House of Parliament said several points in Prime Minister in Toshiki Kaifu's bill remained unclear.

He cited Kaifu's failure to define the "small firearms" the 2,000 otherwise unarmed members of the force would be allowed to carry for self-defence.

The plan to send Japanese troops abroad for the first time since World War II has raised fears of revived militarism among Japan's Asian neighbours, victims of past aggression by imperial troops.

The Socialist spokesman said another point of contention was the definition of the multinational force now deployed in Saudi Arabia confronting Iraq.

Iraqi 'cargo' eludes sanction enforcers

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (Agencies) — Western warships have reported that an Iraqi ship that ignored warning shots and defied orders to turn back had apparently dumped a prohibited cargo overboard.

The Al Bahar Al Arabi, target of the U.N. economic blockade of Iraq, was allowed to resume sailing after American and Australian sailors found the cargo holds empty in a second search.

Iraq branded the incident a provocation.

The 7,000-tonne ship was searched for the first time on Saturday in the Gulf and ordered back to Iraq after U.S. coast guard personnel discovered steel tubes and plywood on board.

The ship defied the order, even after the U.S. destroyer O'Brien fired shots over its bow, so it was stopped a second time Monday afternoon in the Gulf of Oman.

But searchers found the ship empty this time, said U.S. navy spokesman J.D. Van Sickle.

"We can only assume the cargo was dumped overboard," he said. Van Sickle also said that Al Bahar Al Arabi, which the navy first identified as a freighter, was registered as a fishing vessel, as

Kuwaitis want their aircraft

MONTREAL (AP) — Kuwait has called on the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) to condemn Iraq for allegedly stealing 15 of its aircraft and registering them as part of the Iraqi Airways fleet.

"On the morning of Aug. 2, Iraqi warplanes bombed the Kuwait international airport where 18 aircraft were on the ground," Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah, head of Kuwait's civil aviation authority, told a news conference.

"Iraq unlawfully seized aircraft owned by Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco and the United Kingdom. Aviation equipment — essential to the operations of an international airport — were systematically dismantled."

"We're trying to avoid political issues here," said Sheikh Jaber, a member of Kuwait's ruling family, which fled to Saudi Arabia hours before the Aug. 2 invasion.

"We're talking about airports and aircraft because this organisation (the ICAO) is a technical organisation."

Sheikh Jaber said the 18 aircraft seized by Iraq and repainted with the logo of Iraq's airline included eight Airbus, three Boeing 767s and two Hawker Siddeley planes belonging to Kuwait Airways. Three other planes, belonging to Britain, Morocco and Lebanon were also seized, he said.

Israel to get \$700m in American weaponry

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate voted Monday to give Israel at least \$700 million worth of U.S. weaponry, despite complaints that the United States is becoming "a bottomless pit" of aid for its chief Middle East ally.

The aid was added to a \$15.5-billion foreign aid bill for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1. That bill already includes \$3 billion in cash for Israel and several other non-cash benefits worth hundreds of millions more.

Israel is the largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid.

Senators voted 97-1 to endorse the additional aid to Israel after supporters contended the help was needed to counter the threat of attack by Iraq.

"The overall bill still needs Senate approval once remaining controversial issues are resolved."

"The best interest of this country is served by assuring the viability of Israel," Senator Daniel Inouye said, citing Israel's sharing of Middle East intelligence with the United States. "It is the best ally we have."

Maintaining "its military and high alert during the Gulf crisis already has cost Israel as much as \$1 billion in unforeseen spending, supporters said."

The aid would come primarily from equipment being withdrawn from Europe as East-West tensions ease, and must be committed within nine months unless doing so would jeopardise the readiness of U.S. forces.

The change would vastly expand the Defence Department's current authority for giving mili-

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Algerian fundamentalist urges dialogue

ALGIERS (R) — A leading Algerian Muslim fundamentalist Front distinguishing himself from the dominant Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), has called for dialogue with secularists. Sheikh Mahfoud Nahnah, president of the Irshad wa Islah (Orientation and Reform) association is emerging as a moderate political alternative to the FIS which won local elections last June and is frontrunner in the FIS's general elections. Nahnah last month formed an alliance of religious associations and smaller fundamentalist political parties to unify the Islamic movement ahead of the elections but the FIS refused to join, saying alliances were not authorised by Islam. "Dialogue is the only means to reduce the gap between Islamists and secularists, which for us are not to blame, because they are the product of the cultural structure in place up to now," he told Algerian television Monday night.

Poison mushrooms kill 23 in Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — Twenty-three people, half of them children, have died in a week in Istanbul after eating poisonous mushrooms, a medical official said Tuesday. "They are mostly poor people who gather mushrooms as free food. They think they can tell the poisonous varieties but in fact this is very difficult," the Istanbul health department official said. He said about 100 people were in hospital after eating poisonous varieties of mushrooms, which are carpeting forests and woods in rural areas of Istanbul. Medical authorities are broadcasting radio and television warnings and have distributed wall charts of poisonous mushrooms to schools, the official said. At least 25 people died of mushroom poisoning in Turkey in the same period last year.

Swiss delegation may visit Iraq

BERNE (R) — Switzerland may send a delegation to Iraq next week to seek the release of its nationals there but would not do any deals in exchange for them, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday. "The federal council will decide tomorrow whether to send a delegation, made up mainly of parliamentarians, to Iraq," Andrea Reichlin said. She stressed that no concessions would be made to Baghdad to secure the release of some 80 Swiss citizens stranded since Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2. Reichlin said the proposed visit was not comparable to that of former British Prime Minister Edward Heath who is in Baghdad on a mission to free British nationals.

Israel says it lost \$250m

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Gulf crisis has so far cost the Israeli economy some 500 million shekels (\$250 million) in damages, Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai was quoted as saying Monday. According to Israel Television, Mordechai attributed these damages to increased defence expenditures, soaring fuel prices and a sharp decline in tourism. Israeli army officials have said due to the Gulf tensions, the military has been kept in a high state of alert, which increased the defence costs. Tourism officials and hotel managers reported a drop of about 20 to 30 per cent in tourism last month, and the deterioration is expected to intensify.

American woman jailed in Cyprus

LARNACA (AP) — A wealthy American woman was sentenced to 3½ years in prison Monday for attempting to smuggle 1,493 grammes of heroin. The 41-year-old woman, identified as Baby Girl Landan, a microbiologist from New York, was arrested at Larnaca airport in southern Cyprus on June 6 just before boarding a flight for New York. A body search revealed she had a bag of heroin strapped to the inside of her thigh. Defence attorney Nicos Clerides told the court that Landan was forced to carry the heroin by her Lebanese boyfriend "who hit her and threatened to kill her" when she initially refused.

GCC to hold emergency meeting

NICOSIA (R) — The six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will hold an emergency ministerial meeting in Riyadh Sunday to discuss the Gulf crisis, the official Omani News Agency said Tuesday. The GCC, made up of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman, is based in Riyadh. "The meeting will focus on the Gulf crisis and current developments in the region," the agency said.

Senegal foreign minister in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — The foreign minister of Senegal, the only country in black Africa to have sent troops to Saudi Arabia, has arrived in Syria for talks with President Hafez Al Assad. Seydina Oumar Sy told Reuters Tuesday that he was carrying a message for Assad from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. He gave no details but said: "President Diouf respects the viewpoints of President Assad regarding the incidents in the region." Sy, who arrived on Monday, was also due to meet Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa. Senegal said Sunday it might triple the size of its 500-man force in Saudi Arabia. Syria has sent thousands of troops there.

Istanbul hopes to bring rain to end drought

ISTANBUL (R) — Aeroplanes have begun seeding clouds around Istanbul with rain-making chemicals, hoping to end a drought gripping Turkey's biggest city. "The water situation is still critical and we have to wait for at least a month to see the results of cloud-seeding," Tefik Tarakcioglu, deputy head of the city's water administration, told Reuters Tuesday. With water supplies down to a mere 25 days and rationing widespread, aeroplanes started dropping a mixture of propane gas and silver iodine late Monday. Tarakcioglu said the seeding, which could boost rainfall by 30 per cent, would end in April. The city's seven reservoirs held 43 million cubic metres on Monday, compared to a usual late-summer level of over 700 million. In most districts water is available for only 24 hours per week and residents have staged protests against the shortages.

Rafsanjani squeezes out rivals, Karrubi emerges as leader

By Anwar Faruqi
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani is stepping up a purge of anti-Western radical rivals, waging a power struggle against the backdrop of the Gulf crisis.

The outcome, at this stage, does not seem to be in doubt: Rafsanjani is gradually consolidating power.

But he needs to force the pace to maintain momentum in his effort to liberalise Iran's economy and society after the June 1989 death of the revolutionary patriarch, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Rafsanjani, leader of the so-called pragmatists, is seeking to improve the quality of life for Iran's 55 million people to cement his popularity. He also wants to rebuild bridges with the West and other Arab states.

But rear-guard actions by the radicals can slow down his campaign and jeopardise his strategy.

Rafsanjani's latest target is Mehdi Karrubi, hardline speaker of the 270-member Majlis, or parliament.

The Majlis is dominated by the radicals, and with elections at least 18 months away, Rafsanjani has to do something to contain them.

Since the death of Khomeini, who was known as the imam, Rafsanjani has systematically removed many radicals and ultra-conservative clerics from the government and key institutions.

"This reactionary tendency has grown since the imam's demise and is now coveting total power," radical parliamentarian Abbas Douzdouzaei, declared last week. "It is feared that it will destroy all revolutionary achievements and aspirations under the guise of religious rules and put American-style Islam in control."

Rafsanjani's supporters now control the 12-member Council of Guardians, which screens legislation to ensure it conforms to Islamic tenets, and

as one of the government's chief antagonists.

Last month authorities arrested his brother, Hassan, on corruption charges.

Last week, Khomeini ordered Ali Yunesi, Tehran's public prosecutor, to investigate the multimillion-dollar Martyr's Foundation, which is headed by Karrubi.

The foundation, which aids the families of men killed in the war, has become a virtual conglomerate, managing companies, real estate and other assets expropriated from supporters of the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

In an open letter to Ayatollah Yusoff Saneie — a senior hardliner who the radicals say is more qualified than Khomeini to be spiritual leader — Karrubi called Khomeini and the moderates "devourers of the imam's legacy."

The feud sharpened earlier this month over the elections for the Assembly of Experts. The hardliners had sought enough seats to replace Khomeini with a radical troika led by Saneie.

But Khomeini and Rafsanjani cut the hardliners out by changing the rules for candidates and making them undergo examinations to test their knowledge of Islamic religious teachings.

Many radicals who had announced their candidacy, like Karrubi, refused to take the test. Most of those who did were flunked, giving Rafsanjani's supporters an easy victory.

Parliamentary Deputy Mohammad Ebrahim Asgharzadeh, a hardliner, said last week that "if some people are under the impression that one faction won the elections, I'm telling them they're wrong."

"If they think that the elections were magnificent, I say in an election where 31 million people were eligible to vote, only 11 million did. His whole scenario was arranged to...eliminate one faction."

Stranded Sri Lankans held against their will in Egypt

By Neila Sammakia
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Hundreds of Asian housemaids, transplanted with their employers by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, are being forcibly kept in service in Egyptian households, foreign diplomats say.

Most of the victims are Sri Lankan women, about 200 of whom are being held against their will, forbidden to leave and forced to work without pay, the Sri Lankan embassy said.

One became so desperate she jumped from a third-floor window, either trying to escape or to kill herself, said Ambassador Ronnie Weerakoon. She died later in a hospital.

The Sri Lankans and hundreds of other Asian women worked as housemaids and nannies with Kuwaiti or Egyptian families in Kuwait and came with their employers to spend last summer in Cairo.

When the Iraqis invaded Kuwait, the Egyptian families in Cairo were left without jobs. The Kuwaitis without money.

Employers of many of the Asians — around 200 Filipinos, scores of Indians and 1,150 Sri Lankans — left the women at the gates of their embassies. Most have been flown home.

Kuwaiti employers and the Kuwaiti embassy are helping pay for the maids' return trips to Sri Lanka, according to the Sri Lankan ambassador.

But Weerakoon and other Sri Lankan diplomats reported that women from that Indian Ocean country are being detained by Egyptian families who cannot pay them but will not let them go.

"It appears there are about 200 held by Egyptian employers who are not allowing them to come to the embassy," Weerakoon said.

"They want to go back home. They are being harassed and not paid. These girls are desperate," he said he knew about the

women from others who came to the embassy and from some who secretly called him from their employers' homes to complain they were locked in.

The embassy plans to ask Egyptian police for help in obtaining the women's release.

Officials at the Interior Ministry said they had not heard of the problem, but if notified would take the necessary legal steps with employers and would hand the women over to the embassy for repatriation. It was not clear what penalty the employers might face.

Many of the housemaids brought to the embassy also complained they had not been paid in months. Their employers told Sri Lankan diplomats that they lost all their money in Kuwait.

Philippine Ambassador Kanan A. Marohombas said he knew of one or two Filipino housemaids forcibly kept by their employers.

He said the employers were "overtaken by the crisis (and) ran out of money. They couldn't afford to pay the salaries or even their plane fare to Manila."

But most families who could afford to hire the maids couldn't do so legally because Egyptian law forbids non-diplomatic residents from employing foreigners as domestics. The very act of having foreign maids in most households would violate the law even if they were free to come and go.

At the Sri Lanka embassy in suburban Cairo, a poster greets visitors with: "God will bless you if you help these girls who have served you well." It's meant to appeal to Egyptian employers, many of whom roll up in luxury cars to leave their maids.

Weerakoon said the rush on his embassy started around Aug. 20, as the realisation began to sink in with Egyptian employers that they had little hope of resuming

soon their former carefree lives in oil-rich Kuwait.

"There was a rush of people bringing in their maids, up to 40 a day," Weerakoon said. "There are still two or three coming in every day."

As he spoke, a shy-looking Sri Lankan stood beside her luggage in another room. Her employers, two women in flashy clothes and sunglasses, negotiated the woman's future with an embassy official.

Egyptians began hiring Sri Lankan and Filipino housemaids about 10 years ago because of wealth acquired by Egyptians working in Gulf states. There were fewer and fewer Egyptians willing to become maids.

Most of the foreign domestic workers prevented from leaving the households had been employed in Kuwait.

Hiring aliens became so widespread that authorities stepped in about two years ago and began rounding up women who looked vaguely Asian, often accusing them of being prostitutes.

"Legal" Asian women working for diplomats took to carrying passports for protection on the streets.

"The danger is that some Egyptians are offering employment, and some of these women are foolish enough to think they can bet around the law," Weerakoon said.

Only 45 women remained at the Sri Lanka embassy by late October. Others sheltered there had been flown home on charter flights financed by the European Community.

Ambassador Marohombas of the Philippines said he arranged with the Geneva-based International Organisation for Migration to help repatriate Filipinos in his embassy. Only a couple of dozen remain, but Marohombas said three to four Filipinos come in each day.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programme
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Cairo news message
18:30 Local programme
18:35 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Arabic programme
23:00 News in Arabic
23:40 Play

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Destination Sante
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 One Foot in the Grave
21:10 Economic Perspective
22:00 News in English
22:30 Family of Spies

PRAYER TIMES

04:23 Fajr
05:40 (Sunrise) Duha
11:20 Dhuhur
14:30 'Asr
17:00 Maghreb
18:17 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatfeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625453
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assam International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654952.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A drop in temperatures will take place, clouds will increase and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain, particularly in the northern parts of the Kingdom. Winds will be

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northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 15 / 26
Aqaba 21 / 33
Deserts 14 / 29
Jordan Valley 20 / 32

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 28, Aqaba 34. Humidity readings:
Amman 28 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Majid Sha'er 791405
Dr. Mohammed Al Sawra 732056
Dr. Zein Zaghlool 638591
Dr. Othman Mustafa 774024
Fina Pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Neiroukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salim pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

URBID:
Dr. Tawfiq Bayyari (—)
Al Shamsa pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Mufied Dama (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 199
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 893590
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815015
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-532000
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-532000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/352
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642442
Jabal Amman Maternity 642563
Mathes, J. Amman 626140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664184/6
Al-Ahli, Al-Muhajirah 777101/3
J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marfa 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 02240050
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983322
Zarqa National Hospital (09)91071
The Sina Hospital (09)987652

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
The Al Nafesa Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
10:00 Damascus (RJ)
10:00 Jeddah (RJ)
10:30 Larnaca (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:55 Cairo (RJ)
10:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:00 London (RJ)
11:30 Madrid (RJ)
11:30 Paris (RJ)
11:45 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:00 Frankfurt (RJ)
10:00 Brussels, Rome (RJ)
10:30 Aqaba (RJ)
10:30 Paris (RJ)
10:30 Jeddah (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:30 Larnaca (RJ)
10:30 Bahrain (RJ)
10:30 Sana'a (RJ)
10:30 Karachi (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 650 / 520
Banana 500 / 450
Banana (Mukammur) 450 / 400
Beans 350 / 280
Cabbage 120 / 80
Carrot 250 / 200
Cauliflower 180 / 140
Cust 200 / 150
Cucumbers (large) 120 / 80
Cucumbers (small) 250 / 180
Dates 350 / 300
Eggplant 240 / 200
Figs 500 / 300
Garlic 1000 / 800
Grapes 400 / 300
Lemon 200 / 150
Mallow 150 / 100
Marrow (large) 100 / 60
Marrow (small) 200 / 150
Onion (dry) 220 / 180
Okra 550 / 500
Pepper (hot) 600 / 500
Pepper (sweet) 300 / 250
Potato 350 / 300
Radish 180 / 100
Sage 550 / 500
Tomatoes 100 / 60

Diplomats say bureaucracy holding up aid to Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A sense of urgency has been added to deliberations in various European capitals over financial assistance to Jordan to compensate for its losses resulting from the Gulf crisis, particularly that almost everyone agrees that the Kingdom is doing its best to adhere to the international sanctions against Iraq, its erstwhile main trading partner, according to Western diplomatic sources here. But no one is able to estimate with any degree of accuracy when this feeling will be translated into deeds through actual aid to the Kingdom.

Western diplomats also categorically deny that there are any ulterior political motives in delaying aid to Jordan as a means to apply political pressure on the Kingdom to change its position on the Gulf crisis. "There is no doubt that (Jordan's) continued security and stability are in the interests of everyone," said a senior European Community (EC) diplomat. "Everyone also realises that an economic collapse of Jordan is imminent if urgent assistance is not extended," he added. But the problem is, "the EC official explained, "most European governments have not come up with definite commitments of pledge to be sent to the front line states" — Jordan, Egypt and Turkey.

A senior Jordanian official noted that Japan and Germany had pledged about \$450 million in emergency assistance to Jordan. Tokyo has pledged \$100 million in commodity loans under soft terms and another \$150 million under stricter terms. Germany has promised \$130 million in emergency loans under soft terms in addition to \$70 million in unappropriated amounts from earlier agreements.

"We are confident that Japan and Germany will honour their pledges," the official said. But, he noted, until now there has been no definite indication of assistance from

other sources. This uncertainty and delay, which borders on what some analysts believe to be "procrastination" and a form of political pressure, could be fatal for the Kingdom's fragile economy, which had taken important steps towards recovery just before the outbreak of the Gulf crisis.

"We have no doubt whatsoever that Jordan is honest and sincere when it says that it is adhering to Resolution 661 (which imposed an international trade embargo against Iraq)," said the West European diplomat. "We are not in the least suspicious that Jordan is busting the sanctions, and this is the message we have been sending to our governments," he added. "Of course, one cannot overlook the fact that the Jordanian-Iraqi border is a very long one and there is always someone who looks for some easy money through smuggling. Even at that, we have to say that the Jordanians are very efficient in checking such attempts."

As far as the European assistance to Jordan is concerned, "I could categorically state that there are no political considerations behind the delay; it is only bureaucracy," he said.

"Over and above everything else, it is a shared belief among the diplomatic community that Jordan has adopted a very principled position," he said. "If there is a problem, then I suggest one should look across the Atlantic and perhaps to a certain extent to London for clues." American and British diplomats, however, reject any accusation that their countries are withholding aid from Jordan or pressuring other countries to do so. U.S. embassy diplomats in Amman refer to statements made by senior Bush administration officials, including Secretary of State James Baker, as proof that Washington believes Jordan is fully honouring sanctions against Iraq.

"In fact American officials, including Baker and Treasury

Secretary James) Brady, are lobbying for aid to Jordan," according to a senior American diplomat.

The British ambassador in Amman also rejected the suggestion that London was making any assistance to Jordan conditional on the Kingdom changing its policy on the Gulf crisis. (See story on page 1)

"Britain is very much interested in the continued stability and security of Jordan and realises that unless aid comes in soon enough the country will be in serious trouble," a British diplomat also said.

Another EC diplomat who has been in Jordan for the past two years, said his government "is trying its best to reach agreement over the EC pledge of aid to Jordan, Egypt and Turkey."

"Unfortunately, I am in no position to tell you when such agreement could be reached despite the awareness in my country that Jordan is facing perhaps the most severe crisis in its history," he added. The diplomat who, like others who spoke to the Jordan Times, insisted on anonymity, conceded that some of the EC member states "are not exactly very enthusiastic about extending any aid to anyone."

"They argue that they have already contributed heavily in the form of direct or indirect participation in the multinational force in the Gulf and that is the extent to which they are going to go," he said. But a senior EC envoy insisted that there was no change whatsoever in the community's pledge of 1.5 billion European Currency Units (\$2 billion) to help the three "frontline states." He, along with others, also expressed his conviction that Jordan needed the aid more than the other two countries.

"In fact, there is an added sense of urgency that Jordan should receive the aid now," the senior EC official said. "But bureaucracy has to take its course, and I hope that the assistance would not be too late."

Returning expatriates get customs facilities

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of Customs Department Mohammad Mahdi Al Farhan Tuesday said that the government had made special arrangements for Jordanians returning home permanently or on a temporary basis as a result of the current developments in the region.

According to the new arrangements, Jordanians returning home will be allowed to bring in their personal effects and household furniture free of any customs duties provided they prove that they have permanent residence abroad.

The new arrangements exempt household furniture, provided that it is used at least 30 per cent and that it arrives in Jordan within six months after the arrival of the owner.

The arrangements provided for exempting one piece of each electrical equipment, except video cameras, air conditioning units and crystal chandeliers.

The arrangements also in-

cluded 120 square metres of wall to wall carpets, in addition to two rugs. Previously only 60 metres were exempted and videos were taxed.

Farhan added that the customs authorities grant cars of Jordanian expatriates, carrying foreign plates, a three-month temporary admission renewable automatically, until the final position of its owner is clear. Non-Jordanian trucks holding Arab plates, and owned by Jordanians, would be allowed to operate in Jordan on a temporary admission basis, against the payment of JD 450 every six months, Farhan said.

Commenting on the new measures adopted by the government Farhan said they exceed the exemptions provided for in an earlier regulation. They are designed to facilitate the exemption of personal effects and household furniture, in appreciation of the expatriates' role in building the country, he said.

Society to protest Western forces, weapons in Gulf

By Elias Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Society for Combating Environmental Pollution is organising a march in Amman on Thursday in a protest against the presence of foreign naval forces in the Gulf with mass destruction weapons threatening the future of Arab countries and the world's environment.

Society members and their friends as well as members of other local groups and concerned citizens are expected to take part in the march from the Professional Association Complex to the United Nations offices in Shmeisani, according to a society spokesman.

At least 150 people are expected to take part in the march at the end of which the society's president, Ahmad Obaidat, will read out a statement and then present to the U.N. resident representative in Jordan, Ali Atiga, an appeal, copies to be distributed to various world organisations, according to Kamel Qaisi, the society's secretary.

Qaisi told the Jordan Times that the appeal to the United Nations will call for concerted efforts towards reaching a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis pointing out that the huge amounts of mass destruction weapons amassed in the Gulf area could have devastating consequences.

Soviet economic delegation arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — An official Soviet economic delegation arrived in Amman Tuesday for talks with Jordanian officials on promoting trade and economic cooperation.

Diversification of goods exchanged by the two countries, joint economic ventures and means of adjusting the balance of trade, which is in Moscow's favour, will be tackled during the delegation's week-long visit, according to Jordanian officials here.

The delegation constitutes the Soviet side to the joint Jordanian-Soviet Economic Committee which meets periodically to discuss means of promoting trade. According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the meetings, opening Wednesday in Amman, will be a follow up to a series of meetings held by the joint committee in Moscow in August 1989.

The delegation members are scheduled to meet with officials at

sequences on the atmosphere, damage the air, water and soil in addition to causing massive destruction to the land and killing thousands of people.

He said that the society, which groups 500 members from all over the country, was established in 1988 for the purpose of combating all sources of pollution to the air, water and soil.

"The society continues its drive to fight pollution through public awareness campaigns, leaflets and other available means," Qaisi said.

The Thursday march, which was discussed in detail by the society's board Tuesday, is intended as a manifestation of protest against the massing of forces in the Gulf and an appeal to the world to prevent war.

Qaisi said that the appeal to the world organisations concerned with the safety of the environment urges them to exercise pressure on their respective governments to try to contribute to the cause of peace.

The march to the U.N. offices in Amman on Thursday comes after another march organised by the Jordanian physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War who marched to the American Embassy to present a protest note against the presence of 450 nuclear warheads on board the war vessels and planes in the Gulf region.

the ministries of industry and trade, finance, energy and mineral resources to review bilateral cooperation in economy and trade, and will make field trips to several Jordanian companies and businesses to inspect the goods manufactured that are imported by the Soviet Union.

The delegation members are also scheduled to tour archaeological and tourist sites in the country, Petra said.

At its last meeting in Moscow, the committee discussed types of goods Jordan might sell to the Soviet Union to help adjust the balance of payments, and suggested that Moscow import more Jordanian phosphate, reaching up to 500,000 tonnes annually.

The Soviet Union has been selling Jordan iron ore, paper, machinery, timber and chemicals, and Jordan has been trying to sell Moscow consumer goods and electrical appliances in addition to phosphate.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday inspects work at Al Amal cancer treatment centre built near the Jordan University Hospital (Petra photo)

Queen visits site of cancer treatment centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday inspected

construction work at Al Amal centre for cancer treatment which is being set up near the Jordan University Hospital in Amman, and was briefed on the project's various stages and the services it will render to the public.

According to statistics, one in every four persons in the Kingdom might develop cancer during his or her lifetime. For Jordanians, this has often meant seeking treatment abroad, but the projected centre is expected to provide the required treatment, according to the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) which is sponsoring the project.

Queen Noor praised the dedicated efforts and generous contributions of GUVS, the University of Jordan, as well as private donors.

A GUVS statement said that a working team of specialists in the field were assigned the task of establishing a national medical centre specialising in the treatment of cancer patients at Jordan University Hospital.

Construction of Al Amal centre for cancer treatment began on Oct. 23, 1989 and the expected date of completion is late 1991,

according to GUVS.

The project is being implemented in three phases, the first expected to be completed in June next year.

The centre is being built on a six-dunum plot of land and consists of the main building with seven floors covering an area of 10,500 square metres, the radiation treatment building with an area of 700 square metres and services building with an area of 235 square metres.

Institutions which helped to finance the project are: the University of Jordan, GUVS and private organisations and individuals.

The Queen was told that the centre would include an outpatient clinic for radiation treatment of children and adults, an operation room, CT scan room, X-ray room for breast examinations, ultrasound examination room, offices for specialists, classrooms, laboratories, health awareness centre, library and a cancer archives.

A GUVS statement said that the centre aimed at providing a comprehensive service to cancer patients in Jordan, to offer spiritual, financial and social support for cancer patients, to provide

statistics and archives to identify the various kinds of cancer and to establish its geographic and demographic distribution.

It said that the centre also aimed at educating and guiding people about cancer, developing communication with various cancer centres, presenting experience in this field to the public and helping neighbouring countries, and participating in the early detection of the disease.

The GUVS statement said that equipment and appliances to be installed at the centre were expected to cost \$9 million. It said that treatment for patients will be free of charge for the needy groups.

The projected centre, the statement said, is expected to save Jordan at least \$7 million annually that are spent by cancer patients on treatment abroad.

Accompanying the Queen on her visit were the ministers of social development, health, education, and public works and housing, as well as the acting president of the University of Jordan, president of GUVS and members of the National Team for the Establishment of the Cancer Centre.

PLO welcomes French, Soviet positions

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The positions of the Soviet and French governments, unlike that of the United States and Britain, indicate that they are inching towards the middle ground in efforts to end the Gulf crisis, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo said at a press conference Tuesday.

In the past few weeks, the PLO held contacts with high-ranking French government officials — including Foreign Minister Roland Dumas — and with Soviet government officials. The outcome of the talks was a position that seems to indicate, in the PLO official's view, that both governments favour a political settlement of the Gulf crisis.

Abed Rabbo said that if U.N. Security Council resolutions could be enforced in the Gulf crisis then they could be enforced elsewhere as well. "We ask for protection of the Palestinian population in the

occupied territories and we ask for sanctions against Israel for having repeatedly violated U.N. resolutions," said Abed Rabbo.

He said that since the Security Council had become part of the new world order, "it should have the necessary power to implement its resolutions." "So (we hold) Israel and the Security Council responsible for the explosive situation in Jerusalem and the territories," Abed Rabbo said. "The war that the whole world has been talking about for the last three months has already begun — in Jerusalem." Abed Rabbo told reporters that "Judaisation process" of Jerusalem has begun and plans to "destroy" Al Aqsa Mosque and Al Haram Al Sharif have already begun.

The transfer plan, which has been the solution of the Israeli hawks on how to rid Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza of its Arab inhabitants, is openly discussed by Israeli parliamentarians in the Knesset, Abed Rabbo said. "The war that has begun is directed

against the very existence of our people in Palestine."

"War and peace," he continued, "can and will be made only in Palestine, in Jerusalem."

Abed Rabbo warned that if the U.N. Security Council did not send peace-keeping forces to the occupied territories then the Palestinian population "would have to use all possible means to defend themselves against Israeli troops and armed settlers. The U.N. would indeed fail to fulfill its duty and raison d'être if it heeded the U.S. and Britain and did not send peace-keeping forces to the occupied territories."

"The situation is explosive, and it seems only to be the beginning. A more comprehensive explosion seems to be on the horizon," Abed Rabbo said.

Facing a cut-off of financial contributions not only from the governments of the Gulf and Saudi Arabia but also from the flow of remittances from the Palestinians living there, the financial flow had been on a continual decline since the intifada began nearly three years ago, Abed Rabbo said. "We have been facing a continual decline in assistance since the intifada began... so this is just a continuation for us."

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zara displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- * Exhibition of photos from the Goethe-Forest (between Tafliih and Shobak) by Sigrid Nember at the Goethe Institute.
- * Exhibition of oil paintings by Salwa Amareen and Halifa Amareen at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Exhibition entitled "Science and Technology Parks" at the British Council.

LECTURE

- * Lecture entitled "Umm Qais 1990: The Future Museum and the Water Channel (Qanawat Fira'wan)" by Dr. Thomas Weber at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

FILM

- * Film entitled "Angel" at the British Council — 5:00 p.m.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King condoles Chamoun's brother

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable of condolences to Douri Chamoun, brother of the late Dani Chamoun, who was assassinated in his house in Beirut three days ago.

Princess Basma chairs scouts meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday chaired a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Jordanian Scouts and Guides Society. The committee approved the society's participation in the 19th Arab Scouts Conference which will be held in Cairo between December 14 and 19, 1990.

Al Zaben holds talks with deputies

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Mohammad Adoub Al Zaben received Tuesday Lower House of Parliament deputies Ziad Abu Mahfouz and Ali Al Hawandeh and discussed with them several issues related to problems facing parliamentarians who graduated from the Philippines universities. Zaben said he would discuss these issues with an ad-hoc committee to formulate suitable solutions.

ESCWA opens liaison office in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The U.N. Economic and Social Committee for Western Asia (ESCWA) Tuesday announced the opening of a liaison office in Amman to help implement the Baghdad-based ESCWA projects and offer expertise to the ESCWA members.

The announcement was made by the ESCWA Executive Secretary Tayseer Abdul Jabbar who said that the liaison office would also be entrusted with the task of preparing for conferences and seminars concerning matters related to development, environment, water, agriculture and energy.

The opening of the liaison office for the Baghdad-based headquarters, Abdul Jabbar explained, came in the light of the developments in the Gulf region. "ESCWA will organise an Arab regional conference on en-

vironment and development in May 1991 in cooperation with the Arab League and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in order to reach a pan-Arab environment strategy to be submitted to the world conference on the environment due to be held in Brazil in 1992," Abdul Jabbar said.

He said that ESCWA would also carry out three projects. The first concerns desertification in the Arab region. He said studies would be conducted in this problem in Jordan, Bahrain, Yemen and Iraq.

ESCWA's second project concerns the protection of the environment, which will be implemented in Jordan in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning, Abdul Jabbar said.

He said the third project concerned industries in the Arab region and their negative effects on the environment. The third project, he added, entails conducting a survey of all the most important industries, the amount of pollutants they emit and the degree of harm they do to the ozone layer.

ESCWA is also planning to draw up a strategy for transport in the Arab region, entailing 38 schemes covering air, maritime and land transport operations in cooperation with Arab states. Abdul Jabbar said that ESCWA had reached agreement with the UNDP in New York to allocate funds for these projects and provide experts to help carry them out.

Coinciding with the opening of the liaison office here, Abdul Jabbar issued a statement pointing out that the Western Asia region has always received United Nations attention as the organisation has invariably carried out essen-

tial tasks in support of peace-keeping efforts and in economic and social development processes in the countries of the Western Asia region.

The statement said that the United Nations "is facing nowadays a great challenge and a serious test as reflected in the Gulf crisis, which tends to be associated with the other questions of the region, all of which remain to be solved."

The organisation, the statement said, has both the capability and stamina to undertake great tasks and honourable missions.

"The more the United Nations is moved to the centre of the stage in the conduct of world affairs, the higher is the level of our responsibility and more exacting will be the tasks laid on us," says the secretary-general of the United Nations on this occasion.

Jordan Times

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Piracy must end

THE government is not only right but duty bound to examine the issue of harassment of ships heading for Aqaba. It should immediately start considering measures to rectify the problem. Jordanians have good indications as to which party or parties are behind these acts of piracy and they are awaiting the results of the government's study of the problem to determine the most potent way the country can respond to them. No doubt those governments which are exercising such crude pressures on Jordan aim to apply sanctions unauthorised by the U.N. Security Council for no reason other than their displeasure with Jordan's policy on the Gulf crisis. The source of this displeasure can be attributed to two factors. The dramatic decrease in public support for the option of war in the Gulf and the ensuing need for jingoists to support their position by exerting pressure on the moderates is certainly one of them. Attempts, through extrajudicial ways and means, to exact submission by Jordan and like-minded countries to the dictates of certain familiar quarters are no doubt the other unspoken factor. Only the Security Council is authorised to apply sanctions against any country that is bound to flout the U.N.'s will and resolutions. In this context Jordan has been faithfully adhering to the council's resolutions on the Kuwaiti situation and was never found by the U.N. Security Council to do otherwise.

Why then would U.S. military ships go on acting against Jordan-bound shipping when Jordan is not a culprit and never was the subject of international sanctions, except perhaps as a demonstration by the U.S. and its militaristic allies that they can take international law into their own hands at a time when they are lecturing the world about the need to accept and abide by the new international order?

If their acts of piracy is a sample of the new order that they want to establish and enact then they had better understand that their leadership and objectives are doomed to failure.

Meanwhile Jordan should examine all options necessary to fend off dangers and threats to its national security, economic well-being and the freedom to make its own policies. A sovereign state, and a member of the U.N., can resort to the Security Council to air its grievances and complaints against bullies. The world will then have to decide whether the new international order is a new law of the jungle or otherwise a solid framework for peaceful relations among states.



ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Tuesday urged France, the Soviet Union and China to adopt a brave stand at the United Nations and refuse the British-American hegemony over the Council and its decisions. The paper said that London and Washington have been displaying their contempt of the world organisation by imposing on the other council members their own wishes and desires, and protecting Israel from sanctions. Resolution 672 remains unimplemented because Washington and London have made it their business to see to it that the resolution remains "ink on paper" only, said the daily. All the resolutions concerning Iraq have been implemented and the sanctions and the embargo have been imposed, but resolution 672 against Israel and its continued atrocities in the occupied Arab land remains unimplemented because of the Anglo-American hegemony on the Security Council and because Israel is a strategic ally of the United States, the paper continued. As the council members prepare for a scheduled meeting Wednesday to discuss the implementation of resolution 672, the U.N. secretariat has not yet prepared a report on the U.N. Secretary General's enquiry commission and its investigations into the killings of the Arab people in Palestine, simply because the commission was barred from going there in defiance of the council resolution, the paper noted. The United States, the paper added, seems to hold the power of deciding on the question of international legitimacy and whether it is applicable to Israel's case or not.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily expresses guarded appreciation of a statement by the Saudi defence minister in which he said that territorial concessions in Kuwait can be made to pave the way for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. Abdul Rahman Omar says that Saudi Arabia has no interest in maintaining a hostile stand vis a vis Iraq and starving the Iraqi people by keeping foreign forces on its land. Saudi Arabia will make no gains either by adopting hostile policies towards the Yemenis and the Jordanians who surround the Arabian Peninsula, says the writer. Perhaps this policy which has been imposed on Riyadh by the Western powers, aims to pave the way to isolating Saudi Arabia from its neighbours to make it an easy prey for their greed later on, Omar notes. It should be quite clear for the Saudis that a war in the Gulf will not be fought in Britain, or the United States but on the Arabian Peninsula, and that any destruction and killing will happen there, thus costing the Saudis and the Arab Nation a dear price, the writer continues. He says that the Saudi rulers should follow up the Saudi defence minister's statements by clearly and openly announcing that the Gulf crisis can and should be solved only by the Arabs, and that all the foreign forces should be pulled out from the Arabian peninsula to pave the ground for such solution.

Econopolitical Forum

Different standards and deviant Arab intellectuals

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

MY greatest contempt and hatred does not go to a Zionist soldier who might gun down my children or to an American pilot who might, in the name of civilisation and lofty human ideals, bomb an Arab neighbourhood to ruins. But they deservedly go to those so-called Arab "intellectuals" who present themselves to the West as sophisticated persons and try to win their credentials from the West as being so, through condemning their Arab Nation, its thinking, behaviour and ideals. By trying to alienate themselves from a "backward" nation whom they had no choice in belonging to, these "intellectuals" want to prove that they are different from it and that they are truly educated and "civilised." One such "intellectual," called A.H. Fahad, published an article in the Wall Street Journal Europe (Oct. 10, 1990) in which he argued that Arabs are enchanted with despotism and

despots, described late Gamal Abdul Nasser as the Egyptian dictator and worst Arab demagogue, and described the dreams of Islamic fundamentalism as being utopian.

The journal introduced this intellectual as a Saudi lawyer and published his article on its editorial page. After Aug. 2, it published two similar articles, by Saudis as well, in which one of them called for the abandonment of Arab nationalism and the second called for the withdrawal of Saudi Arabia from OPEC.

The trouble with this unique brand of deviant intellectuals is two-sided. First they employ Western standards to evaluate Arabs, Arab Nationalism, Arab performance and even Islam. By Western and American standards, Nasser was wrong of course and President Saddam is also wrong and both are dictators. However, by Arab and Iraqi standards, President

L.B. Johnson was wrong at the time and Mr. Bush is, pragmatically speaking, much worse than a dictator, or he is the dictator of the world. Even General De Gaulle was wrong by American standards, while W. Churchill himself was wrong by French ones.

There must be some sort of peaceful co-existence among the various sets of standards which prevail in this world. One nation can work to convince other nations to change their standards but not impose its own on them; such imposition necessarily leads to friction which can give rise to tensions and confrontations that may mature into wars. Mr. Bush is trying now to do just that in the Middle East.

Of course, defeatist Arab "intellectuals" like this Mr. Fahad, if he really exists, can go on promoting themselves in Western markets and salons through projecting an awful image for the Arab Nation.

But if the West believes them, Western policy-makers will end up deriving very wrong conclusions which will serve as a base for wrong decisions and policies.

Second, deviant Arab "intellectuals" do not put things in perspective. The implicit charge is that the Arabs are unable to achieve things like economic progress and political transition into the Western version of democracy. In terms of economic development, Jordan, for example, which had subsistence economy in 1946 is as developed today as was Great Britain or Spain on the eve of World War II. What took Britain centuries to achieve in terms of economic development was achieved by Jordan, or Lebanon, in fifty years. The military development, so to speak, achieved by Iraq in the course of the last ten years is phenomenal.

A utopian dream is one

which is impossible to find in real life. The Islamic model of governance, labelled as utopian by deviant Arab intellectuals, was a fact of life under Caliph Omar. The Europeans developed the vague Greek concept of governance into the present version of Western democracy. Due to the abundance of Arab intellectuals who are constantly brain-washed by Western culture and Arab rulers who have been spoiled and mocked by Western influence, Arabs have failed to develop that model into a modern and operational version of governance. The West, on its part, has been doing all it can to impede that, including the employment of military power. However, historic perspective indicates that it took Western states centuries to develop their democratic and economic model into its present form; all Arab states were born only decades ago.

The greatest achievement of

the Western civilisation and model of governance are materialistic ones, measured in terms of indicators such as per capita dollars, caloric intake, ice cream consumption and cars, telephones, TV sets etc. per thousand persons. But these materialistic achievements concomitantly include two world wars, the erosion of the ozone layer, air, water and soil pollution and a horrible arsenal of nuclear weapons. Whether by nuclear war or by that pollution, this globe has never been closer to self-destruction, closer to the achievements of the Western mix of ideals, values, economic doctrine, way of life and particularly the way "success" is defined and later on rewarded. This is the sort of model which we are requested to emulate. The one lesson the West and our defeatist intellectuals do not seem to have learnt is that a wealthier human being is not necessarily a happier one.

Cheney opens to glasnost

By Charles Aldinger

Reuter

PARIS — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney has come away from talks with Soviet leaders no longer sceptical about glasnost.

U.S. officials travelling with Cheney said during a Paris rest stop on Sunday that his meetings with President Mikhail Gorbachev and military officials convinced him the superpowers could be a twin force for peace in the Gulf and worldwide.

"The secretary knows times have changed, that glasnost (openness) and the shattered Russian economy mean inevitable further defence cuts, whether the Soviet military wants them or not," said a senior Pentagon official, who asked not to be identified.

Cheney and Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov said in a Friday news conference their exchanges on planned arms cuts by Washington and Moscow were more open and honest than ever.

"I am very positive about the changes we have seen," said Cheney, who returned to Washington on Monday.

"While I did, in fact, begin as a sceptic based on past experience, I have been persuaded... that we have, indeed, entered a new era of U.S.-Soviet relations."

The mood and results of the four-day visit that ended on Friday were a far cry from 1983, when Cheney went to Moscow as part of a U.S. congressional delegation.

At that time, the Americans and members of the Supreme Soviet broke up into small groups and shouted at each other over everything from human rights in

the Soviet Union to how Washington treated American Indians.

Moscow later temporarily broke off talks on eliminating intermediate-range nuclear forces when the United States and NATO proceeded with deploying Pershing-2 nuclear missiles in Western Europe. Those missiles have since been scrapped.

But on Wednesday, Cheney was welcomed with a bear hug to the same chandelied Kremlin meeting room by the Supreme Soviet Defence and International Affairs Committees.

U.S. defence officials said the dirt and grime, pitted streets and protests over food and housing shortages did not escape Cheney as his bullet-proof limousine sped through Moscow.

But open protests, including a small tent city near the onion-shaped domes of St. Basil's Church in the shadow of the Kremlin, convinced him that real changes were taking place.

The officials said Cheney realised during a tour of a MiG-29 fighter production plant that a Soviet promise to start making food processors there would be a difficult transition. But they said he was convinced the intention was honest.

Cheney told reporters he felt assured by details he received about planned further cuts in Soviet defence spending and progress on arms control.

He also said at a Paris press conference on Saturday he had got nothing from Moscow on Iraqi military capability in the Gulf region. But U.S. officials had not really expected such information.

All they want is a home

By Robert Mahoney

Reuter

BUREAU REFUGEE CAMP. Occupied Gaza Strip — When an Israeli bulldozer flattened Ibrahim's house the army told him the busy road on which it stood needed widening urgently for "security reasons."

One month later the dirt road through the centre of this Palestinian refugee camp is blocked off and deserted.

"I don't understand. Why do they say the road must be widened one day and then they block it off the next?" Ibrahim asked from the abandoned ward of a tuberculosis hospital where he has lived since then.

Palestinian activists and refugee workers say the answer is simple. The Israeli army is collectively punishing all 19,128 Bureij inhabitants for the murder of an army reservist.

Refugees say the camp has been under virtual economic siege since several hundred youths stoned and burned a soldier to death on Sept. 20.

The army, which has heaped sand across the main camp entrance, has prevented food trucks from entering and men from leaving the collection of breeze-block shelters which make up Bureij, residents said.

The camp's young men, who support entire families by working outside the occupied Gaza Strip in Israel, have been unable to leave for their jobs for fear of arrest.

"The army has arrested hundreds of young men and they still break into our homes at night looking for more," said resident Amer Shalabi, 30.

"Any man with a Bureij identity card is picked up," he said.

Bureij residents have been sneaking in food on donkey carts through fields and orchards to beat the blockade. The camp has been under curfew for a total of 20 days in the past month and water supplies are erratic.

The soldier blundered into the camp in his car. His death caused a furor in Israel and had rightwingers clamouring for collective punishment.

The army immediately knocked down 10 houses and 30 shops, saying the measure would ensure security. It bricked up a mosque and sealed alleys with oil drums cemented together. It denied the demolitions were punitive.

It later demolished another 10 homes of people accused of throwing stones at the soldier.

Many of the demolitions were carried out before the stone thrower was convicted by a military court, said Hashim Abu Sido, spokesman for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

"The road did not need widening... personally I believe it was punitive. The army doesn't need security. The people need security," he said. The buildings housed about 190 people, he said.

The army has promised to rehouse and compensate owners of houses demolished for security reasons but Ibrahim, a sanitation worker in his 60s, said he had received nothing yet.

"I will go if they give me a house... I can't stay here all night. The mosquitoes are bit-



Human rights campaigners have demanded a halt to collective punishment which they say is counter-productive and widens the gap between Arab and Jew.

ting us," he said. As he spoke UNRWA officials were taking down tents which housed the men from the demolished buildings.

"With the onset of winter it will be too cold for them here... they have to move into the hospital with the women," an official said.

Human rights campaigners and Israeli left-wingers have demanded a halt to collective punishment which they say is counter-productive and widens the gap between Arab and Jew.

The punishment has hit many families in the pocket. Imad Shalabi, 27, supports an extended family of 20 by working as a tailor in Tel Aviv.

"I can't leave here because I will be arrested when they see my magnetic (identity) card from Bureij," he said. Palestinians need cards to

work in Israel. Shalabi, who earned \$40 for a 14-hour day, supports his parents and brother's family.

"My brother is unemployed because they took away his magnetic card because he could not pay taxes," he said. "We all now live on my savings but they will finish next month."

Salah Anis, 47, is also running out of money as he idles away the day in a tent. His house was sealed after his son was charged with stone-throwing.

"People who saved some money have gone through their savings," he said.

"They (the army) are stifling us, we are surrounded," he said, lamenting that he could not go to work.

"All we want is for them to open our houses."

LETTERS

Cyprus, a different matter

To the Editor:

My intention is not to contribute on a regular basis to your editorial page but this time I wanted to comment on an article that appeared in your Oct. 22 issue, headlined "Cyprus capital is now world's only divided city."

Who would not want solutions to all international disputes? Who would not hope that all divisions were eliminated? However, one should avoid to be simplistic in his approach. Especially when it is a dispute, like in Cyprus, where division may not be, as claimed, "artificial" or where the differences are not ideological.

The approach used by the writer of the article, Associated Press correspondent Alex Eft is a case in point. He seems to ignore some basic points, especially when it comes to comparing the situation in Cyprus with some problems of divided countries.

The progress in the efforts to bring two parts of a state or a nation closer is due basically to the growing toleration between opposing ideologies and the end of the Cold War. In Cyprus, however, one should remember that only the presence of the Turkish Muslim community on the Island and efforts to meet their security concerns and their basic rights have necessitated the establishment of a separate state. Moreover, no Cypriot nation exists but two ethnically, linguistically and religiously distinct peoples on the Island. The division of the Island into two is the result of the attempts (many of which were armed assaults) by the Greek Cypriots since 1963 to oppress and even eliminate the Turkish Muslim Cypriot community, precisely the destruction by force of the partnership state by the Greek Cypriots. The division is to protect the less populous Turkish Muslim Cypriot community and the elimination of this division should be initiated by the Greek Cypriots who have tried hard to isolate their partners in state and ignored their security concerns.

If the Greek Cypriots are seriously hoping that U.N. pressure on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait will eventually force the should also commit themselves to a solution of the problem as envisaged in the latest Security Council Resolution No. 649 (1990) and be sincere this time to accept the basic elements as indicated in that resolution: a bi-communal and bi-zonal federation and equal political and legal status for the two communities. I am sure that the Turkish Muslim Cypriots will be pursuing this,

Oktaf Aksoy,
Ambassador of Turkey,
Amman.

Bush's blunders push him to the top

By Gene Gibbons

WASHINGTON — President Bush may have stumbled over taxes and the budget but he is still much in demand as a speaker for Republicans seeking office in next month's congressional elections.

The reason is money — the "mother's milk" of the U.S. electoral system — for George Bush is a master political fundraiser.

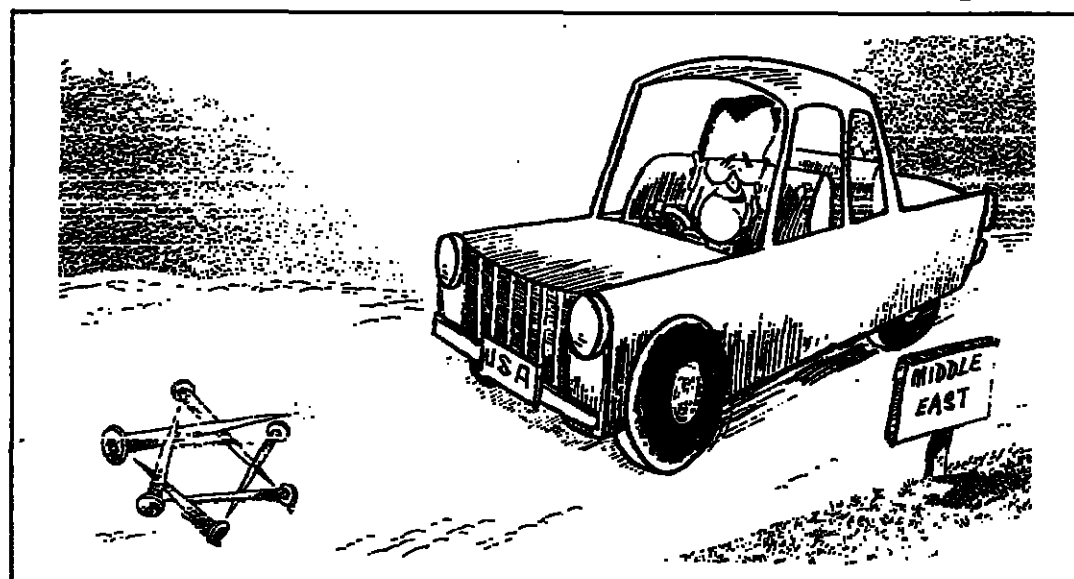
His pulling power as a celebrity attraction for wealthy Republicans is thought likely to draw as much as \$100 million into party coffers over the course of the campaign, even though he has infuriated Republicans and hurt his own poll ratings by changing his mind on taxes and the budget.

Much is at stake in the Nov. 6 elections: the entire 435-member House of Representatives and about a third of the 100 senators are up for reelection this year along with 36 of 50 state governors.

Democrats outnumber Republicans by 258 to 176 with one vacancy in the House, 55-45 in the Senate and 29-21 among state governors.

While Republicans expect to lose a little ground in the House — as the president's party nearly always does in mid-term elections — they hope to minimise those losses and perhaps trim the Democratic majority slightly in the Senate.

The next presidential election is two years away, but Bush's role in the mid-term poll is vital, financially as well as politically.



"This president has a lot of grassroots appeal for raising funds," says Eddie Mahe, a Republican campaign consultant. "If he helps a candidate raise \$100,000 or \$200,000 for a final push on television, it helps a lot."

Television advertising, which can swing an election at the last minute, can eat up as much as 60 per cent of campaign budgets in close races, experts say.

One staggering example of the astronomical sums spent on U.S. campaigns is Texas, where Bush "stumped" for Republicans last week. The two candidates for state governor have already passed the record of \$34 million for a statewide campaign. Analysts estimate they'll spend a combined total of about \$50 million.

Republican Clayton Wil-

liams leads Democrat Ann Richards in Texas, but she has been closing the gap in a campaign marked by mutually insulting advertising costing millions of dollars.

Anxious to please local political power brokers whose help he would need in any 1992 reelection bid, Bush will campaign in at least a dozen states in the run-up to the elections.

Another thing that may make him an attractive campaign commodity is that he does not let grudges get in the way of party obligations. He will campaign for any Republican — even those who denounce him for abandoning his "read my lips, no new taxes" pledge in the drive for cuts in the huge government budget deficit.

Asked recently how he could help such caustic conservative

critics as Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina, Bush replied: "We have broad principles that unite us."

This only sharpens the paradox of Bush's popularity as a campaigner. Political strategists and editorial writers alike say his clumsy performance in the current federal budget crisis might hurt Republicans at the polls.

"He clearly has no bedrock philosophy and it shows in the way he has zig-zagged on taxes," said a former White House official. After first sending mixed signals, the President came out against raising the tax rates of the wealthiest Americans to help bring the deficit under control.

Bush "has defined the Republican Party in a negative way — that is, fighting for the rich," said Democratic pollster Peter Hart.

Jordan lays foundation for political pluralism

The general commission entrusted by His Majesty King Hussein to prepare a national charter, or a social contract to govern future political life in the Kingdom last week approved a document which lays the foundation for the establishment of political parties in the country.

The document, entitled "the state of law and political pluralism" asserts that the Jordanian constitution is the supreme source of authority in the Kingdom, and from it derives the legitimacy of political parties, organisations and freedoms.

Following is an unofficial translation of the full text of the document as endorsed by the 60-member commission:

FIRST: the state of law

1- The state of law is a democratic state which is committed to the supremacy of the law and which draws its legitimacy, authority and activities from the free will of the people. All the state's authorities shall be committed to ensure legal, judicial and administrative guarantees for the protection of human rights, dignity and political freedoms as based on Islam and which have been affirmed by the universal declaration on human rights as well as all international charters and agreements sponsored by the United Nations Organisation in this respect.

2- The state of Jordan is a state of law in the modern sense of the meaning of a democratic state and a state for the Jordanian citizens regardless of their beliefs and views.

The Jordanian state draws its power from the practical application of the declaration of equality, justice and equal opportunities, and also from the right to a chance for the Jordanian people to participate in taking decisions pertaining to the people's way of living and general affairs in a manner that would achieve stability and build confidence in the future and foster a feeling of concern for the state's organisations and a sense of national belonging.

SECOND: Basic principles for the state of law

1- Commitment to the pro-

visions of the Jordanian Constitution in the letter and the spirit when handling legislative, executive and judicial authorities within the framework of right and justice.

2- Commitment to the principle that law rules supreme, guaranteed by full control on the part of the independent judicial authority.

3- Commitment, when practising democracy, to the principles of social justice and its requirements because it constitutes the essence of the democratic system.

4- Commitment, in free expression of views, to the principle of democratic dialogue totally independent from and free of all forms of pressure, and ideological intimidation at all public and official levels.

5- Neutrality on the part of governmental establishments in their dealings with the public and public institutions and refraining from any exploitation of institutions by any group, political party or bloc for political reasons, but rather in a manner that would not compromise the right of members of the public to political organisation. Military and civilian institutions should strictly abide by this principle so as to ensure success for the democratic system in the country.

b) In order to corroborate the above mentioned principles, certain measures should be taken to finalise the construction of constitutional institutions that would bolster the democratic edifice and achieve the following:

1- Enactment of those legislations that would pave the way for the creation of a permanent institution under a special law, to be called "grievance office" which would give further boosting to control state affairs and the state's dealings with its citizens. This should by no means compromise the effectiveness and efficiency of any administration and should underscore the important role of justice in the construction of the democratic society without compromising the prerogatives of the judiciary.

2- Adoption of necessary measures to set up a special

body that would be entrusted with modernising the laws through studies of existing legislations with a view to achieving amendments. Recommendation in this respect should be submitted to the council of ministers and Parliament for approval.

3- A revision of the country's defence law and martial rule. A special legislation should be enacted to deal with emergency situations under a special defence law when martial rule is declared, but which must first be endorsed by Parliament to determine its duration, and should be subject to judicial control.

4- Revision of the constitutional articles dealing with the council of ministers' legislative authority as included in Articles 114 and 120 of the Constitution. These are related to the purchase of requirements for government businesses, and the Civil Service Commission. These authorities should be entrusted to Parliament.

5- Recommendation was given to revise the provisions of the Constitution in general and to take guaranteed measures to introduce amendments wherever possible and helpful to the democratisation process.

THIRD: Political pluralism

1- The concept of political pluralism is based on the principle of accepting different views in political, economic and social fields, and recognising the right of individuals, groups and organisations to set up their own parties and groups as long as they are committed to the provisions of the Constitution and the National Charter based on the Constitution.

2- The most solid guarantee for the democratic system in the country's political pluralism hinges on commitment to the following principles:

a) Respect for the principles of the democratic process by all the parties and political groups because such process is the best guarantee for justice and stability.

b) Consolidating the values of tolerance and respect of other people's beliefs and avoiding personal feuds and

personal hostile attacks on the other individuals or groups.

c) Guarantee for basic freedoms for all citizens in a manner that would provide protection for all elements in society and the rights of all individuals to free expression.

d) Guarantee of equal rights and opportunities for all citizens, men or women, without any discrimination.

e) Political parties, professional associations and voluntary groups together form an integrated democratic society whose mission is to ensure civic contribution to national efforts that would serve the nation for now and in the future. Therefore, these groups and organisations should not be made to serve as substitutes for government organisations.

f) There should be full protection for the civic and democratic character of the state; therefore any attempt to tamper with this situation will be considered null from the start because it simply means an encroachment on the Constitution and a violation of the right of people to adopt the concept of pluralism.

g) All laws in general and those concerning political parties, press and publication and elections in particular should provide for respect for all basic rights and public freedoms.

FOURTH: Principles and rules that control political groups and parties.

1- Jordanians have the right to create political parties or to join them provided that these parties' aims are legitimate and within the law and they respect the principles and objectives of the National Charter. Laws on political groups or parties should by no means imply or include any provisions that would make the Constitution a tool to ban or destroy political parties.

2- Political action and political parties should be founded on pluralism, in ideology and organisation.

3- All political parties should openly declare their statutes and programmes, defining their objectives in political,

social or cultural and economic fields.

4- Political parties should commit themselves to their declared programmes in word and deed and take into consideration the following:

a) Adoption of democratic methods with regard to statutes, the election of leadership and in conducting their political activities which should be held in a democratic atmosphere internally, and in dealings with the other political groups in the country.

b) Jordanian political parties should by no means be affiliated to non-Jordanian groups; and therefore they should never direct their own business and activities in a manner that would respond to directives or orders from abroad.

All political parties should also take into consideration the fact that the liberation of Palestine and Arab unity remain the most prominent objectives for all Arab countries.

c) Any political party entrusted with the executive authority or taking part in it should aim to achieve equality for all citizens regardless of their affiliations.

d) All political parties should depend for their financial resources on local revenues which should be made public and be subject to legal control.

e) Political parties should avoid involving officers from the armed forces, and the Public Security into their cadres in any way or form especially with the purpose of creating their own militias.

f) Political parties should have their own headquarters; and state institutions should by no means be made to serve their objectives nor should there be any attempt to involve religious or public administration organisations in any activities organised by political parties.

g) Only the judiciary holds authority to settle any violation related to "the political parties' law."

Arab unity outweighs democracy

By Lamis Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

FOR Munes Al-Razzaz, a prominent novelist and political activist, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is not a model for a democratic Arab leader. Yet Mr. Razzaz finds himself, like many of his peers, rallying behind Saddam in the current confrontation with the West.

"One does not really have an option but to support Saddam, for the crucial issue at stake is sovereignty and not democracy," Razzaz says.

Razzaz's dilemma is an example of the intellectual challenge posed by the Gulf crisis for Arab advocates of democracy. While the West views the conflict as that of an international campaign against a ruthless dictator, many Arab intellectuals back Saddam because they believe the struggle for democracy will be futile without asserting Arab sovereignty.

"There is no democracy when society's will is dictated by foreign domination," says Mazen Saket, a writer, who, like Razzaz has been active in promoting democracy in Jordan.

But Razzaz and Mr. Saket entertain no illusion about Saddam. Until 1979 both were members of the Iraqi wing of the Pan-Arab Baathist Party led by Saddam. Both left, disillusioned with the movement's ability to reconcile the struggle for democracy with national independence.

Razzaz is the son of Munif Razzaz, a Jordanian who served as assistant general secretary of the Baathist Party until he was dismissed in 1979 for opposing the Iraqi leadership's crackdown on leftists and freedom of expression.

"Repression should not be allowed to become a daily practice by the state," wrote the senior Mr. Razzaz in his book, "The Predicament of the Left." Such a policy is a fundamental violation of one of

Baathism's basic principles, freedom."

Mr. Razzaz was under house arrest until his death in Baghdad in 1984. His son fled to Beirut, later returning to Jordan where he depicted his father's uncompromising struggle for democracy in a novel called "The Confessions of a Gunslinger." The book reflects the despair and disillusionment within the Pan-Arab struggle for unity and freedom.

Ironically, just as the Iraqi regime's shortcomings shattered Razzaz's dreams of Pan-Arabism, Saddam's challenge to Western interests in the region sparked new hope for achieving Arab sovereignty and unity.

"For the first time, the struggle for Arab unity and sovereignty on a democratic basis appears to be possible," explains Razzaz, who argues that although he does not advocate the unification of the Arab World by force, the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait is relevant to Arab sovereignty.

According to this view, to which many intellectuals in Jordan subscribe, the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait heralds the beginning of "a decolonisation" campaign which will pave the way for Arab unity and even democracy.

This scenario is derived from the philosophy of the Baathist Party — established in 1946 — that argues that Arab independence from foreign control is a prerequisite for the unification of the Arab World and its freedom.

Only through Arab control of Arab strategic natural resources — mainly oil — can Arabs undermine the U.S. grip on the Arab World, the senior Razzaz argued.

The Gulf states, including Kuwait, are viewed by Pan-Arab nationalists as an obstacle to Arab sovereignty because they mainly serve the interests of Western and multinational corporations.

According to Arab analysts, this theory gained new significance and broader support after the Soviet political pullout from the region left the area vulnerable to U.S. and Israeli domination.

As a result of "American hegemony," Razzaz and Saket argue, Israel appears to be successfully containing the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, while Western control of oil resources will push the Palestinian problem into oblivion.

Moreover, supporters of Saddam fear that Western domination of Arab oil-producing countries could prevent the emergence of an effective Arab economic bloc and impede collective Arab action to counter Israel.

How Arab intellectuals sympathetic to Saddam can hope that a man with his past will achieve unity without sacrificing their dream of democracy, is one of the paradoxes of this argument.

"The West is shedding crocodile tears for democracy," counters Ibrahim Baker, a lawyer and human rights advocate. "After all, they are defending corrupt and repressive oil sheikhs who still live in the Middle Ages."

Furthermore, there appears to be optimism among intellectuals who support Saddam that the democratisation drive gripping the world is "irreversible."

Intellectuals like Razzaz and Saket believe that Saddam's challenge to the West is unwittingly unleashing a hitherto suppressed Arab popular movement.

"Times have changed," Razzaz says. "Saddam simply cannot succeed in leading the Arab World toward unity and sovereignty if he does not heed Arab popular will for democracy."

The above article was also published in the Christian Science Monitor.

4 Israelis injured

(Continued from page 1)

area and detained dozens of other Palestinians after two Arabs were seen fleeing from the vicinity of the attack.

Israel Radio said the suspect, who was taken for treatment at Afula hospital, told police he had driven into Israel with the intent of attacking Israelis.

The suspect was identified only as a 39-year-old Palestinian from the Jericho area.

In addition, police said a Palestinian worker attacked his Israeli employer and a Jewish neighbour with a hammer in revenge for the army's killing of a friend in the Gaza Strip. The hospital initially said they had been stabbed.

Police said the men had been hit repeatedly on the head and one remained unconscious.

A 19-year-old Arab construction

worker was arrested in the Sunday stabbings which resulted in the deaths of a woman soldier, a gardener and a policeman who shot him twice in the legs.

On Monday, an Israeli delivery man was stabbed and slightly wounded by a Palestinian in Jerusalem. Jerusalem police later foiled an attempt by an Arab to stab them, police said.

Two other stabbings attacks by Palestinians against Israeli soldiers occurred in the Gaza Strip. Neither was fatal.

The U.N. Security Council held further inconclusive consultations Monday over whether to adopt a formal resolution, or only a statement, calling on Israel to cooperate with a U.N. mission meant to probe the Oct. 8 massacre.

The private consultations, which began last Friday, were expected to resume Tuesday.

Controversy

(Continued from page 1)

will and cordial understanding in solving certain border problems that existed with Iraq for a long time, also with Jordan and the United Arab Emirates.

"As regards the Iraqi aggression on fraternal Kuwait, the kingdom while declaring its categorical rejection of this aggression reaffirms its full commitment to all Arab and international resolutions.

"These resolutions call for Iraq's immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwaiti territory and reinstatement of legitimacy under the leadership of Prince Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah," he added.

Prince Sultan's remarks Sunday were far more conciliatory in tone than Riyadh's previous bitter criticism of Baghdad.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, in similarly mild remarks on Monday, urged Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, saying

Iraq would lose no face in rectifying the invasion "blunder."

"If President Saddam were to reconsider the matter seriously, he would find that it is in Iraq's interest and in his interest personally and in the interest of the Arab nation that he withdraw from Kuwait," King Fahd said.

"If something wrong was done, we should not try to redress it by another wrong. I believe that we should try to redress the wrong by something right."

"A blunder has been committed. It is clearly a blunder... I believe (Saddam) should not think that if he returned to the right, logic and reason, that would be taken as a shortcoming on his part," the king said.

"On the contrary, I believe that he would say an Arab has followed a certain course and now has realised that there was a better course to follow than the one he had embarked upon, and thus he has returned to reason."

"I do not think that this would bring any disgrace on Saddam," said King Fahd.

The U.S. administration contacted Riyadh Monday about Prince Sultan's remarks but said it had been assured there was no change in Saudi Arabia's tough stance on the crisis.

But his remark was the main factor in sending oil prices and futures sharply lower in New York and London.

Ambassador Bandar was summoned to the State Department Tuesday, where he denied the kingdom wants Kuwait to yield territory to Iraq in order to defuse the Gulf crisis.

Iraq "should not be under any illusion," Prince Bandar told reporters as he arrived for a meeting with Secretary of State James Baker.

"This is a decision for the Kuwaitis, not for us," the ambassador said. "But we don't think aggression should be rewarded."

Prince Sultan "was not implying Kuwait should do one thing or another," Bandar said.

Thatcher

(Continued from page 1)

are mandatory. Like every other member of the United Nations Iraq is duty bound to comply with them. Failure to do so is a cynical rejection of the United Nations and international law. The best way to achieve a peaceful solution is through strict enforcement of the sanctions imposed by the Security Council. I recognise that the consequences of sanctions are painful for Jordan. But you have friends willing to help if Jordan demonstrates she is not prepared to compromise on the fundamental issues that confront us all. Britain is of course one of them.

You accuse us of double standards in our approach to the problem of Palestine. That is not so. The two cases — Israel's presence in the occupied territories and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait — are not exactly similar. In 1967, the closure of the Straits of Tiran and the withdrawal of the U.N. force led to conflict between Israel and the Arab states, in the course of which Israel occupied Arab territories. Security Council Resolution 242 called for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. Arab acceptance of that resolution years ago would have enabled Palestinians to achieve self-determination and Israel to live within secure borders. As it was, Arab countries did not accept Israel's right to exist within secure borders for

many years; and the PLO only accepted Resolution 242 in 1988. The situation remains unresolved. However, Resolution 242 remains the framework for a settlement based on land for peace.

Saddam Hussein has done a grave disservice to the Palestinian cause by diverting world attention from the achievement of this goal by the invasion, destruction and purported annexation of Kuwait. We intend to address the problem of Palestine vigorously once the present crisis is over. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in contrast was a deliberate act of unprovoked aggression against a sovereign state and recognised as such by the international community including the Arab League. The speed of the U.N.'s response reflects this.

You say there was no time for an Arab solution. That was not the case. Saddam Hussein's invasion not because of the presence of foreign forces. The Arab League and the Islamic Conference Organisation tried without success to prevent the crisis occurring. Saddam's only answer was to deceive his Arab colleagues, by breaking his promise to President Hafeez al-Assad that he would not invade Kuwait. Saudi Arabia had no alternative but to request international military assistance to prevent an Iraqi invasion. It is thanks to rapid action by the United States, the Arab League, Britain, France and others that the aggression has been halted.

There is no distinction between an Arab and a U.N. solution — the only possible Arab solution is the removal of Saddam Hussein from Kuwait in accordance with the U.N. Security Council resolutions.

It is preposterous to claim that the U.S. is seeking to control the Gulf and its oil resources. It is equally preposterous to claim that the U.S. could enlist Europe and Japan to achieve these so-called aims. The U.S., like all other members of the international force, came in response to Saudi Arabia's request for military assistance.

There is no question of the U.S. or any other non-Arab country seeking to control Arab resources or subvert its culture. On the contrary it is Saddam Hussein who has entered uninvited into another sovereign Arab state and who has taken control of land and resources which are not his own. It is Saddam Hussein who has violated the sovereignty and independence of his fellow Arabs. The invasion is not solely an Arab matter. It is one for all of us who uphold, as you do, the right of self-determination, the sanctity of individual sovereign states and the right of individual and collective self-defence.

We in Britain share these values and it is for this reason that we have joined with Arab nations and with the international community as a whole to force Iraq to comply with its international obligations.

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Jordan Times

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Study says OPEC, U.K. and USSR to amass billions from Gulf tension

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The OPEC nations, Britain and the Soviet Union will be billions of dollars richer and Eastern Europe and developing nations further impoverished from oil price hikes due to the Gulf crisis, a U.N. official has said.

The United States may pay \$22 billion to \$46.5 billion above 1989 energy expenditures next year, depending on whether per-barrel prices are at \$30 or \$40, the official said.

"A sharp rise in oil prices has darkened the prospects for global growth and hit the oil-importing developing countries and Eastern Europe particularly hard," said Rafeed Ahmed, the under-

secretary-general for international economic and social affairs.

With prices at \$30 or \$40 per barrel, developing nations that import oil will have to pay between \$45 billion and \$60 billion in 1991, compared to \$30 billion in 1989, Ahmed said.

"For many of these countries, this will be an unbearable additional burden," Ahmed told a general assembly committee on economic affairs.

Ahmed presented figures estimating how much more various nations and regions would pay or earn in 1991 from Gulf-related oil price hikes, using two scenarios, oil at \$30 a barrel and at \$40 a barrel. The scenarios assumed

prices would have been \$21 a barrel without the Gulf crisis.

— The United States pays an additional \$22 billion in the first scenario; \$46 billion in the second.

— Britain gains \$3 billion; \$6.2 billion.

— Soviet Union gains \$11.5 billion; \$24.3 billion.

— Canada gains \$1.3 billion; \$2.7 billion.

— Norway gains \$4.9 billion; \$10.4 billion.

— Members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries — excluding Iraq and Kuwait, which are under U.N. embargo — collectively gain \$88 billion; \$159 billion.

The OPEC beneficiaries are Algeria, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.

— Saudi Arabia alone would gain \$42.3 billion; 18.7 billion.

— Other non-OPEC oil exporters gain \$14.6 billion; \$30.8 billion. This group includes Angola, Brunei, China, Colombia, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Yemen, and a handful of minor exporters.

— Developing nations as a whole lose \$15 billion; \$31.7 billion.

— Eastern Europe loses \$5.9 billion; \$12.4 billion.

Turkey allows offshore banking, could gain from crisis in Gulf

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has given the go-ahead to offshore banking in its six free trade zones in a move that could attract foreign capital fleeing the Gulf following Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

A cabinet decree exempts foreign banks in the zones from obligations under the banking act with immediate effect.

"Turkey has moved quickly on offshore banking and set up the infrastructure. It has the advantage of being a bridge between Europe and the Middle East," Mehmet Erten, general manager of Istanbul-based Tekfen Bank, told Reuters.

Under the decree foreign banks operating in the zones may extend credits to residents in Turkey but are not allowed to take deposits or issue borrowing instruments such as bonds and bills.

Bankers said the Gulf crisis could prompt a movement of some offshore banks from the Gulf to Turkey.

"The timing of Turkey's offshore banking attempt is very good. Turkey has chosen the best moment," an Ankara-based Turkish banker said.

Offshore banks have lower costs than their domestic rivals, which are obliged to hold reserves on their deposits, bankers said.

Turkey-based banks will be subject to the banking act if they open branches in the free trade zones, according to the decree.

"The development of offshore banking in Turkey will have a positive effect on Turkish industry since it will offer a new financing opportunity," Ergun Ozen of Private Is Bank said.

Turkey opened free trade zones in the Mediterranean ports of Mersin and Antalya last year but the absence of offshore banking regulations has kept foreign banks away.

The decree allows foreign banks to trade on the Istanbul

stock exchange but bars them from brokerage activities.

Turkey, which began adopting free market policies in 1980, has since abolished foreign exchange restrictions and made the lira convertible.

Twenty-two of the 63 banks operating in Turkey are foreign.

Meanwhile, Turkey is likely to privatise state-owned Tobank by the end of this year, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency has said.

Officials from the Public Partnership Administration (PPA), which holds a 97 per cent stake in Tobank, said PPA had determined the sale value of the bank but did not disclose this or indicate how many shares would be sold.

Tobank, established in 1959 by domestic private capital, was transferred to a group of public banks led by Ziraat Bank in 1986 when the bank ran into financial trouble.

Some foreign banks are in-

terested in buying into Tobank as well as Turkish industrial and financial groups, the agency said.

PPA, the government office in charge of privatisation, will ask buyers for a commitment to increase the bank's paid-up capital to 300 billion lira from a current 122 billion lira after the sale, the agency said.

The bank employs 1,925 people in its 96 branches in Turkey.

Twenty-three companies out of 56 slated for privatisation have been sold totally or in shares since February 1988 when the privatisation campaign started with the sale of a minority share in Teletas communications company to the public.

PPA will sell part of its 39 per cent share in Konya cement factory this week through a public offering, officials said.

It will offer part of its shares in two other cement companies to the public in the first half of November, they added.

British trade gap narrows sharply

LONDON (AP) — Britain's merchandise trade deficit narrowed sharply to \$245 million (\$1.65 billion) in September, helped to its best showing in three years by a rise in exports, the government has said.

The merchandise trade deficit was the lowest since April 1987 when the shortfall was \$757 million (\$4.8 billion), the Central Statistical Office said. The deficit compared with a shortfall of \$1.2 billion (\$2.3 billion) in August. The markets had expected a worse September figure of \$1.4 billion (\$2.73 billion).

The figures for country's current account deficits were the same as the merchandise deficits, the office said. That's because invisible trade such as services, which is included in the current account measure, was in balance for both months.

Exports rose to \$8.8 billion (\$17.2 billion) in September from \$8.6 billion (\$16.8 billion) in August. The office cited a rise in exports of chemicals, semi-manufactured and manufactured goods.

Nigeria pays \$300m arrears to Paris Club

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria has paid its government creditors more than \$300 million in arrears on outstanding debt, central bank sources have said.

A bank official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters the arrears had risen to an undisclosed total pending a new stand-by agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"The government decided last month to pay both principal and interest due, to demonstrate our intention not to wait until we are compelled to pay," he said.

The arrears stem from debt service due originally between the end of April, when its last rescheduling agreement expired, and the end of September.

Diplomats said the payments made included \$140 million and \$40 million (\$78 million) to Britain, the biggest single creditor in the informal Paris Club of government creditors.

Paris Club creditors hold about half of Nigeria's \$33 billion foreign debt.

The central bank source said the Lagos government expects to have a 15-month IMF standby

facility amounting to 375 million Special Drawing Rights (\$541 million) starting Jan. 1. Nigeria originally had had hoped for an 18-month programme beginning Oct. 1.

An IMF programme is widely seen as a precondition for agreement on a \$500 million World Bank balance of payments support loan for 1990.

The central bank official said a compromise had been reached with the World Bank of how much Nigeria could spend on its huge Soviet-designed Ajakuta steel plant.

The IMF has consistently urged the military government to increase domestic fuel prices — among the lowest in the world and far below market levels even after two increases since the introduction of a structural adjustment programme in 1986.

"This is an issue on which a political decision must be made, balancing the revenue benefits to an government against the possibly socially disruptive effects, especially at a sensitive stage in the transition to civil rule," the source said.

Banks freeze \$1.2b suit against Peru

NEW YORK (R) — BankAmerica Corp., Citicorp and eight other American, Japanese and Canadian banks have agreed to suspend a \$1.2 billion lawsuit against Peru, participants in the deal have said. The suit, the largest of 28 filed to recover loans to Peru, was suspended when the Peruvian government agreed to meet with a committee representing all Peru's commercial creditors by March 30, according to Washington-based lawyer Mark Cymrot. Bankers said the suit was filed in March to protect lenders from the possibility that their claims would be lost to a statute of limitations.

Peru has been in default on its foreign debt interest since 1984. It owes commercial banks \$4 billion out of a total foreign debt of nearly \$20 billion. "We are hoping this agreement will end an era of confrontation with Peru's commercial banks," said Cymrot, who represents Peru. He said he is optimistic the other cases will similarly be suspended.

Soviet republics may control hard currency income by end of 1991

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet government may allow the country's 15 republics to take full control of their hard currency earnings from foreign countries by the end of 1991, Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov has said.

The government has decided to create a committee involving the leaders of all republics to decide how hard currency earnings from exports should be distributed, Ryzhkov told the independent news agency Interfax.

A plan approved by parliament last week for transferring the controlled economy to a market system said central government would retain control over exports of oil, gas, gold, diamonds and other raw materials.

Ryzhkov told Interfax that this provision, which angered some republics, was only temporary.

"It won't be a long time, maybe up to the end of 1991, and then the republics will take full control over this sphere," he said, according to Interfax.

Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev complained last week that the plan approved by parliament would give Moscow control over foreign trade relations.

Russia and most other republics have adopted sovereignty declarations asserting that they have exclusive rights to control their own raw materials.

Ryzhkov said the government would be very cautious when talking de-nationalisation under the new economic plan — a compromise between a radical change to a market economy and Ryzhkov's more gradual proposals.

"I agree that the state owns too much in this country, just as there are too many state enterprises. Gradually they will be transformed into joint-stock companies or similar collectively owned enterprises," he pointed out.

"But claiming part of property belonging either to the state or public organisations or urging the disintegration of the army is not on," he stressed.

The Soviet parliament approved Monday the first reading of a bill to crack down on black marketing during the changeover to a market economy, TASS said.

The bill calls for stiff penalties including jail terms for people who buy goods from state stores and resell them on the black market. It is expected to get final approval next week.

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Ryzhkov said the government would be very cautious when talking de-nationalisation under the new economic plan — a compromise between a radical change to a market economy and Ryzhkov's more gradual proposals.

"I agree that the state owns too much in this country, just as there are too many state enterprises. Gradually they will be transformed into joint-stock companies or similar collectively owned enterprises," he pointed out.

"But claiming part of property belonging either to the state or public organisations or urging the disintegration of the army is not on," he stressed.

The Soviet parliament approved Monday the first reading of a bill to crack down on black marketing during the changeover to a market economy, TASS said.

The bill calls for stiff penalties including jail terms for people who buy goods from state stores and resell them on the black market. It is expected to get final approval next week.

Greek government to tighten economic austerity programme

ATHENS (R) — Greece's conservative government, encouraged by solid results in nationwide local elections, will tighten its tough economic austerity programme further with a cap on state spending and restraints on wage rises.

Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis, who has a one-seat majority in parliament, saw the weekend results in 359 municipal races around the country as a mandate to press on with his economic policies, his aides have said.

Mitsotakis, who formed the first conservative government since 1981 after April elections, made no effort to conceal his delight at the 136 town halls now controlled by his party. This was a gain of 49 mayors over 1986 local elections.

"The government emerged stronger than we imagined," Mitsotakis told reporters. "It was a happy surprise. We will move decisively to fulfil our pledges to revitalise the economy."

Pledges carried out so far have been painful, with thousands of state workers laid off, big rises in prices for telephones, electricity and transportation, tax hikes and an assault on the legion of middle and upper income tax evaders.

Mitsotakis and his top aides made clear where their axe would fall next: Finance Minister Ioannis Palaiochrassas said the 1991 budget due next month would seek to cap state spending.

Greece's chronic budget deficits, some \$12 billion in 1990, have prompted cries of alarm from European Community partners and crippled the state economy.

Palaiochrassas said servicing foreign debts alone would take about 40 per cent of 1991 state expenditures and require 60 per cent of all tax revenues.

Emboldened by the election result, aides said Palaiochrassas was unlikely to waver from pledges to cap state spending in all areas except interest payments on outstanding debts.

New Democracy's first full-year budget will also strive to meet a stringent target of cutting inflation to below 17 per cent annually in 1991, from an expected 25 per cent in 1990.

What some aides openly call a draconian budget will also be designed to send a clear message to public employees that wages will be well below inflation in 1991. Mitsotakis may insist on as little as 12 per cent when talks begin early next year.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES					
Tuesday, October 23, 1990 Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	451.0	455.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	516.9	520.0
Pound Sterling	1274.8	1282.4	Dutch guilder	384.6	386.9
Deutsche mark	435.5	436.1	Swedish crown	116.6	117.3
Swiss franc	513.1	516.2	Italian lira (for 100)	57.9	58.2
French franc	129.4	130.2	Belgian franc (for 10)	210.5	211.8

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.			
	One Sterling	One U.S. dollar	
U.S. dollar	1.9445/55	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1745/55	Canadian dollar	
	1.5210/15	Deutsche marks	
	1.7155/65	Dutch guilders	
	1.2830/40	Swiss francs	
	31.30/35	Belgian francs	
	5.0910/60	French francs	
	1140/1141	Italian lire	
	127.75/85	Japanese yen	
	5.6270/6320	Swedish crowns	
	5.9170/9220	Norwegian crowns	
	5.8035/85	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	370.40/90	U.S. dollars	

BERD sees Europe as one market by 2000

WARSAW (R) — The head of a new bank aiming to rebuild the economies of the former Eastern Bloc has said that east and west Europe could forge a single giant market before the year 2000.

Jacques Attali said the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development would help Eastern European countries and the Soviet Union to privatise their economies, set up joint ventures with Western partners, build new infrastructure and clean up their polluted environments.

"The prospect of seeing a market in Europe of 700 million consumers and producers reaching not the same level but the same trend of development is something we can reach before the end of the decade," Attali told a Warsaw news conference recently.

"This is the first institution of the post-cold war period where all the Europeans are gathered with friends of Europe like Japan and the United States to build a joint economic space, democracy and a market economy," he said.

Attali said the London-based bank, known by its French acronym BERD, would start operations next spring with lending capital of 10 billion European Currency Units (\$13.7 billion).

"We're not going to give an unreasonable share to one country. But it's clear it may happen that for one year or two years one country is not only in more urgent need but also in a situation where investment growth is possible and ready," he said.

He outlined several future projects in Poland saying BERD would take the lead in financing a "huge transformation" of the antiquated Polish telecommunications system and help to organise the privatisation of industry and banks and reform the social security system.

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Municipality of Greater Amman
P.O. Box 132
Amman - Jordan
TLX: 21969 AMCITY JO
FAX: 6/649420

Documents will be granted free of charge for those who had previously purchased the documents from the Municipality.

Closing date for accepting bids is 26/11/1990 at 12:00 noon at the same address above.

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Cinema CONCORD Tel: 677420 SOUR GRAPES 3:45, 6:15, 8:30	Cinema RAINBOW Tel: 625155 Izzat Al Alaili & Yahia Al Fakhriani in THE EXECUTION OF A JUDGE (Arabic) Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.
Cinema NJJUM Tel: 675571 THE UNTAMED Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.	Cinema PHILADELPHIA Tel: 634144 Mahmoud Yassin & Bui in LICENCE TO KILL (Arabic) Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30
Cinema PLAZA Tel: 699238 Ahmad Zaki and Raghda in KABORIA Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30	

Hindu party abandons Singh in protest against leader's arrest

NEW DELHI (R) — The Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) abandoned Tuesday the Indian minority government it had kept in power in protest against the arrest of its leader.

Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh refused to resign after the authorities arrested BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani, embroiled in a Hindu-Muslim dispute over a religious site, and appeared confident he would survive.

Only one thing was clear — that India was in for a period of wheeling and dealing with none of the main parties keen to fight an election.

Singh's Aug. 7 decision to raise the number of government jobs reserved for lower-caste Hindus from 22.5 per cent to nearly half split most parties along caste lines.

Despite the huge protests the decision unleashed, no party wants to fight an election on such a sensitive issue. Nor do most want to campaign on the Hindu-Muslim issue that led to Advani's

arrest in the northern state of Bihar early Tuesday.

He was heading for the town of Ayodhya in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh, determined to start building a temple on land where a 16th century mosque now stands.

Militant Hindus say a temple marking their god Ram's birthplace was torn down to construct the mosque and it must be rebuilt.

There were widespread fears the row would lead, as Railways Minister George Fernandes put it, to "a religious holocaust."

Politicians from most parties said they wanted to work out an arrangement that did not mean early polls.

Singh told reporters after seeing President Ramaswamy Venkatarman that he would call a special session of parliament and predicted he would emerge with a majority.

If he failed, Venkatarman could call on Rajiv Gandhi's opposition Congress, the biggest party in parliament, to try to form

a government, an eventuality Singh thought unlikely.

"The BJP has withdrawn its support. That is the factual position. This does not mean all support is withdrawn. That will be proved on the floor of the house," he said.

"It is not clear that he is going to fail," said one senior Western diplomat. "Deals can be cobbled together."

Senior members of Singh's Janata Dal Party said he could survive with the support of lower caste members of other parties who favoured his reservation plan, on which their leaders have been coy in fear of losing votes on an issue that split the country.

Another candidate is veteran Socialist Chandra Shekhar, a bitter Singh critic lurking in the Janata Dal wings hoping to fulfill a long-held ambition to be prime minister.

Chandra Shekhar attempted a revolt against Singh during the furore over the reservation issue and failed.

Senior Congress officials said Gandhi, who lost his majority in last November's elections, was still deciding what to do.

They said Gandhi was under increasing pressure to support Chandra Shekhar, but that he also feared the BJP, which supported Singh to keep Congress out, might do so again if an election were the alternative.

"After all, even the BJP fears it may not be able to repeat the successes of the last election," said one.

Meanwhile a Delhi schoolboy set himself ablaze Tuesday in protest at a government plan to reserve more jobs for lower-caste Hindus, the latest of scores to stage fiery, suicidal demonstrations.

Hospital officials said Amit Jain, 16, was admitted with 25 per cent burns after he doused himself with kerosene and lit a match at his residence in old Delhi's walled city.

ANC proposes meeting between Mandela, Buthelezi

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (Agencies) — In a conciliatory move aimed at ending black factional fighting, the African National Congress has proposed a meeting between Nelson Mandela and rival black leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

The ANC, in its statement Monday, backed down from months of resistance to a Mandela-Buthelezi meeting. It did not say when the two should meet, only that it should occur in the near future.

Zulus loyal to Buthelezi's conservative Inkatha Freedom Party have been involved in bloody battles with ANC supporters since the mid-1980s.

Buthelezi said he welcomed the invitation, which he said Inkatha had been pursuing "for some time now." Mandela, who is on a visit to Australia, told reporters in Canberra Monday he hoped the meeting would ease black-on-black tensions.

"Future meetings are important," he said. "You create a new atmosphere, an atmosphere of hope. The meeting raises the hope of a peaceful resolution."

A meeting between Mandela and Buthelezi would be the first since Mandela's release in February from 27 years in prison.

The two were scheduled to meet earlier this year but Mandela canceled under pressure from the ANC, which felt the talks would enhance Buthelezi's stature.

The ANC later proposed that Buthelezi attend a meeting with other black homeland leaders, but Buthelezi turned down the invitation because he wanted to attend as the Inkatha leader rather than in his capacity as head of the KwaZulu homeland.

The ANC opposes the homeland system, saying it is part of the apartheid system.

While both the ANC and Inkatha oppose apartheid, they differ on methods to oppose it and disagree on the vision for a future South Africa.

In its statement, the ANC referred to the factional violence that has killed thousands of blacks and said it "welcomed the steps being taken jointly by the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party" to end it.

The ANC Executive Committee recommended a Buthelezi-Mandela meeting "to strengthen the efforts aimed at ending the violence."

Inkatha and the ANC have held periodic talks, but neither Mandela nor Buthelezi has attended. Both sides have blamed the other for the surge in factional fighting, which has claimed about 800 lives in the Johannesburg area alone since August.

Bhutto triumphs in crucial show of electoral support

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's politicians paused for breath Tuesday after weeks of frenetic campaigning officially ended without any side commanding a clear lead.

Benazir Bhutto, bidding to recapture the premier's job that was snatched away when she was sacked in August, boosted her image with a propaganda victory over her main political foe, Nawaz Sharif.

Her final rally brought tens of thousands of people on to the streets of Pakistan's political heartland, Lahore, Monday night, making Sharif's alternative lacklustre, witnesses said.

But whether the enthusiasm displayed by Bhutto's Lahore supporters will translate into votes for her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) remains to be seen.

As thousands of soldiers and teams of international observers deployed across the country to check potential election violence and rigging, Sharif was confident of his Islamic Democratic Alliance's (IDA) chances.

"Overall I see the position in favour of the IDA," he said at a Lahore news conference. "We are quite confident of forming the government in Islamabad."

Bhutto, backed by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on Aug. 6 and accused of presiding over widespread corruption, exhorted Pakistanis to vote for the arrow, the PPP's election symbol.

Speaking in Karachi before leaving for her ancestral home of Larkana where she will vote, Bhutto said: "It will be the victory of truth. It will be the victory of democracy."

PPP leaders say only widespread rigging by Bhutto's opponents, installed as caretaker rulers after her sacking, can deny her victory at the polls.

Even if successful, Bhutto and several of her former ministerial colleagues could find themselves disqualified if convicted by special courts set up to hear charges that they abused their powers during 20 months in office.

Many diplomats and political analysts see Bhutto's Lahore intelligence predictions that Bhutto will get only around 70 seats as too low. They expect something closer to her 1988 total of 93 seats in the 217-seat National Assembly.

That could still allow the IDA and its regional allies to form a government, but its task has been complicated by a presidential decree banning "horse trading."

In the past it has been common for parties to increase their support by inducing opponents to switch sides with promises of patronage. Following Monday's decree any deputy who defects or defies his party's voting instructions can be disqualified.

The measure could strengthen pressure for a national government after the elections, although Bhutto would be most unlikely to join, PPP sources said.

At least three teams of international observers will tour the country Wednesday watching whether the generally free and fair elections of 1988 can be repeated.

The biggest, organised by the U.S. National Democratic Institute, will send out 40 parliamentarians, politicians, and regional and election experts from 17 countries to observe.

Some caretaker ministers, stung by criticism abroad of Ishaq Khan's action and a suspension of aid by the United States over worries about Pakistan's nuclear programme, have said the country does not need anyone to certify its election process.

Gorbachev begins visit to France, Spain Friday

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev, lauded in the West as a Nobel prizewinner but facing pressure over plunging living standards at home, is taking his campaign to promote a united Europe into foreign fields this week.

He leaves Friday for visits to Spain and France. Moscow's relations with both countries are good and Gorbachev's deftness at handling trips abroad may silence even his most vociferous domestic critics.

The Soviet leader is due to sign documents setting down the nature of relations with each country — three weeks before a summit in Paris of 35 European and North American leaders.

Gorbachev stands to receive a particularly warm welcome during his visit to Spain, the first by a top Soviet leader.

In France, he and President Francois Mitterrand are likely to make a public display of unity on key international issues, despite apparent differences on a treaty to be signed outlining the two states' future relations.

In both Spain and France, the Soviet leader will be keen to secure new credits desperately needed following parliament's approval last week of a plan to establish a market economy.

But the frequency of Gorbachev's foreign trips — he plans five in the last three months of the year — has raised eyebrows among diplomats in view of the political and economic turmoil he is leaving behind.

Worsening shortages ahead of the Russian winter have left shops lacking eggs, cheese and many staples. Many ordinary Russians expressed indignation at Gorbachev's Nobel Prize award last week.

Conflicts are looming in negotiations to determine the future relations between Moscow and the 15 Soviet republics.

Spain, which draws parallels between Gorbachev's perestroika reforms and its own transition to democracy after the death of dictator Francisco Franco in 1975, is expected to discuss concrete economic aid for Moscow.

Crackdown on monks stuns Burma

BANGKOK (R) — A raid by armed troops on dissident monasteries in Mandalay has stunned Burmese and shattered any lingering illusion that the military government has a heavenly mandate to rule, diplomats said Tuesday.

"Regardless of politics Burmese see this as such an abomination, so monstrous they are speechless with rage," a diplomat said.

The army, which Monday swept through 133 monasteries in Mandalay, said it would arrest and charge monks opposing military rule. Diplomats gave unconfirmed reports of more than 20 arrests.

Monks have spearheaded two years of protest against military rule. In August monks started refusing to minister to the religious needs of soldiers and their families after they claimed soldiers shot dead at least two monks during a demonstration in Mandalay.

Diplomats said the boycott, a potent weapon in deeply Buddhist Burma, appeared to have spread to the country's major religious centres sagging, Irrawaddy and Pegu. One Rangoon-based observer said at least 50,000 monks out of 300,000 nationwide supported the boycott.

Last week the army ordered

three illegal religious groups to disband. Diplomats said Monday's raid indicated there were still pockets of resistance to the ban. They said soldiers were still standing outside monasteries in Mandalay and Rangoon.

There are 50,000 temples and shrines in Burma and the districts that surround the larger ones are filled with dozens of small monasteries.

"Things are pretty tense here. No one sends an armed soldier tramping through a holy ground lightly," one diplomat said.

Since crushing a nationwide uprising in 1988 the army has tried to cow opposition through arrests and intimidation.

Bush vetoes civil rights bill

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. President George Bush, risking the political wrath of blacks and women has vetoed a civil rights bill that would make it easier for workers to sue employers who discriminate.

"I deeply regret having to take this action with respect to a bill bearing such a title, especially since it contains certain provisions that I strongly endorse," Bush said in a message to Congress.

He said the legislation as written would force employers to adopt hiring quotas to avoid litigation, and he urged lawmakers to pass an administration-sponsored alternative.

"The temptation to support a bill — any bill — simply because its title includes the words 'civil rights' is very strong... but when our efforts, however well intentioned, result in quotas, equal opportunity is not advanced but thwarted," Bush said.

His veto drew strong criticism from Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy, the principal Senate sponsor of the bill.

"The president's veto of the civil rights act of 1990 and his repeated efforts to pin the false label of 'quotas' on this legislation are part of a disreputable tactic to appeal to public resentment and prejudice," Kennedy said in a written statement. "When the chips are down, this White House is against civil rights."

Bush's action, which was backed by business groups and Republican conservatives, is certain to be an issue in the Nov. 6 congressional election campaign.

Manila puts troops on alert

MANILA (R) — The Philippines placed troops around the country on combat alert Tuesday as radical unions backed by Communist guerrillas vowed to halt industries and transport with a strike Wednesday.

In stepped-up violence around the capital ahead of the strike, leftist rebels Tuesday bombed the offices of Caltex and Shell Oil companies in Manila, causing minor damage and no casualties, police said.

Leaders of the leftist May One Movement (KMU) union said they had mobilised their 700,000 members around the country to take part in the strike, but would focus their efforts in Manila and in the key provincial cities of Cebu and Davao.

KMU is demanding a rollback of fuel prices and a 38-peso (\$1.50) increase in the basic daily wage, now 89 pesos (\$3.55).

Moderate unions held off plans to join the strike, saying they would wait for the outcome of negotiations with government wage boards.

Armed Forces Chief General Renato de Villa placed the country's 160,000-strong military on red alert, apparently fearing that right-wing army rebels might take advantage of Wednesday's planned stoppage to launch attacks.

Last December's sixth and bloodiest army coup attempt against President Corazon Aquino occurred on the eve of a planned strike.

"We are declaring a red alert status to be able to address any security concern that might arise out of the strike. We must stop all forms of violence," De Villa told reporters.

The Communist-led National Democratic Front, a leftist umbrella group of rebel organisations, Tuesday announced full backing for the strike and called on businessmen to heed the workers' wage demands.

Aquino appealed to workers to call off the strike, saying the issue of wages should be settled through negotiations.

"I appeal to labour to settle their demands peacefully at the forum provided for by law — the regional wage boards," Aquino said. Both labour and management are represented on the boards.

Speaking earlier Tuesday to about 300 army officers, Aquino denounced rebel soldiers who had tried to topple her and called on the army to remain loyal to the constitution.

The oil company bombings occurred the day after gunmen shot dead the president of a moderate transport union that had refused to join the strike. Two days ago suspected Communist rebels burned two passenger buses in the capital.

Sri Lankans risk bullets, high seas to flee to India

RAMESWARAM, India (AP) — Tens of thousands of Sri Lankan refugees, risking bullets and high seas, are fleeing ethnic fighting in their island homeland for an uncertain future in India.

"I lost everything I had to my neighbours for rock-bottom prices to raise the money for the boat trip," said Singaduthu, a 40-year-old fisherman, who like many Sri Lankans uses one name.

He clutched his two sobbing daughters while their 4-year-old brother looked around in bewilderment for the mother he would never see again.

She was killed during the family's bid for safety, caught in the fighting between the Sri Lankan army and the Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

"I lost my wife in the crossfire while waiting for the boat to escape to India," Singaduthu said.

His voice choked with emotion as his daughters, 11-year-old Tilakavathi and 10-year-old Kala, cried.

Singaduthu and his family fled their home at Ednakalampatti on Sri Lanka's northeastern coast, trying to avoid both government troops and Tamil rebels.

They made their way westward to Mannar, a Sri Lankan island in the archipelago stretching across the Palk Strait toward India.

"The boat that was supposed to take us to Rameswaram was gone already," Singaduthu said. "We needed to wait for one day, and we hid in the bushes to escape from the Tigers and the army. My wife Gnanavalli was hit by a bullet."

More than 100,000 Sri Lankan Tamils have fled to the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu since fighting erupted anew last June between Sri Lankan Tamil rebels

and their Sinhalese-dominated government.

Nareesh Gupta, the Tamil Nadu commissioner for refugee rehabilitation, said as many as 1,300 Sri Lankans have arrived in a single day at Rameswaram. Others said the figure was more like 3,000 a day.

Many, like Singaduthu, arrive at makeshift reception centres where they were registered before being bused to refugee centres in schools, warehouses and emergency shelters.

Rameswaram once was best known as a Hindu pilgrimage site. In the days before the war, ferries plied the 50 kilometres between Rameswaram and the Sri Lankan port of Talaimannar.

A largely illicit bazaar sprang up at Rameswaram, 440 kilometres south of Madras.

Sri Lankan Tamils, coming to visit the huge temple of the Hindu god Shiva, brought electronics and other foreign goods that were scarce or prohibitively expensive in India. Before returning home, they stocked up on the bright cotton sarongs worn by Tamil men on both sides of the strait.

The ferry service was halted in 1983 when the Tamil uprising began. But the smuggling trade flourished, war or no war, bearing goods and refugees to India and arms to Sri Lanka's rebels.

Today, the briskest business involves refugees.

Malraja, a Sri Lankan boatman, charges 500 Sri Lankan rupees (\$14.50) a person for a ride in his 6-metre motorboat from Pesalai on Mannar Island. Often his passengers have no money and must barter possessions.

"I gave Malraja the gold ear studs of my wife and one of the daughter's for the trip. I also gave

him my old cycle," said a construction worker who identified himself as Anthony.

Many of the refugees were reluctant to criticise the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or LTTE, who are fighting for separate homeland.

The Tamil minority, which comprises 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's population, has claimed discrimination by the Sinhalese, who make up 75 per cent of its 16 million people.

But Anandaraaja, a trader from the eastern town of Batticaloa, was willing to speak his mind.

"Many of us do not understand why the LTTE is fighting this war though they have been offered by the government a free run of the administration of a Tamil province," he said.

The governments of India and Sri Lanka have been discussing the creation of secure refugee camps in Sri Lanka itself. But no progress has been made.

Meanwhile, Indian officials say they are distributing 500 Indian rupees (\$28) worth of rice, cooking fuel and other essentials each month to the refugee families.

Meanwhile Tamil rebels lost their main supply of explosives for their separatist war when Sri Lankan troops recaptured a cement factory in the Jaffna peninsula, officials said Tuesday.

The rebels had seized the Ceylon Cement Corp. building in the port city of Kankesanthurai last June and turned it into a weapons factory, using a one-tonne store of gelignite and detonators, said the officials. Government forces retook the factory Sunday.

The military launched a two-pronged offensive on Oct. 17 to widen perimeters around five key military installations in the north-

ern peninsula, the stronghold of the LTTE.

Military officials who spoke on condition they were not further identified said the rebels used the factory's machinery to produce mortars and mines. They also converted earth moving equipment into improvised armoured vehicles.

Landmines, called "dice" or "johnnies" by Sri Lankan soldiers, were the guerrillas' most lethal weapon, accounting for 75 per cent of the army's 2,000 casualties, the officials said.

The explosives had been used by the cement factory to blast nearby quarries.

The officials said the capture of several small towns and villages south of Palai airfield has provided a link between the airstrip and Kankesanthurai's seaport.

With air and sea supply routes to Jaffna now secured, government forces were widening perimeters around other installations in the peninsula.

The government claims over 100 rebels and 20 soldiers have been killed in the week of fighting. The bodies of over 30 rebels have been found and 175 soldiers were injured.

The rebels claimed they killed 50 soldiers and lost 15 of their own. They have not conceded the loss of any villages or towns.

Meanwhile, army snipers shot dead four Tamil rebels Monday near the village of Telipalai 12 kilometres northeast of Jaffna town. The rebels were probing sentry points when they were spotted by the sharpshooters, the officials said. One soldier also was killed.

In the eastern capital Batticaloa, police killed two rebels and arrested 14 suspects, the military said.

COLUMN

U.K. jail band goes on the run

LONDON (R) — A British jail may stop its rock group playing outside concerts after two prisoners escaped, the second time this year that band members have gone on the run. The two men went missing from Gloucester jail in southwest England Saturday during a break in a charity concert at a nearby nursing home. The five-man band is called Inside Out, a name that was "quite appropriate on this occasion," a prison spokesman said. One of the escaped band members gave himself up Monday but the other is still at large. The spokesman said jail officials would review whether inmates should be allowed out on parole for rock concerts. Earlier this year two other band members absconded on home leave before a television fund-raising event. They were picked up later by police.

Charles' plaster cast raises money for charity

LONDON (AP) — The plaster cast worn by the Prince of Wales after he broke his right arm playing polo was the star prize in a church raffle which raised £1,700 (\$3,230), a church spokesman said. Officials at the Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury at Kingswear in Devon, southern England said they will spend the money on repairing the church roof, which suffered damage estimated at £46,000 (\$87,000) in February's storms. Winner of the cast, Elizabeth Schofield, 49, from Colchester in Essex, was on vacation in Kingswear when she bought a 50 pence (95 cent) raffle ticket. "I will pass it through my family like an heirloom. I don't know where I will put it, but it should be a conversation piece," said Mrs. Schofield. Prince Charles, who broke his arm in a polo fall at Cirencester, Gloucestershire, on June 28, donated the plaster cast after church warden Reg Little, 63, wrote and requested it. "After the accident I woke up in the middle of the night and decided to ask the prince if he would give us the cast," Little said at the time. "I wrote a letter and went to the gate of Highgrove (the prince's Gloucestershire residence), but there was no letter-box and no one about. So I threw the letter over the gate." A week later the prince's private secretary replied that the prince would be happy to donate the cast to such a worthy cause, Little said.

Restaurants provide Braille menus

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — A restaurant chain is providing Braille menus in 42 Tennessee restaurants and, if there's a demand, plans to offer the special menus at its 715 restaurants across the United States. The concept is public service — and public relations. If it generates a profit, that's all right too, Shoney's Inc. executives say. "We're just doing it in the middle of Tennessee right now as a test," said Shoney's marketing director Jeff Sowell. Shoney's executives will decide within three months whether to extend the Braille menus nationwide. The company spent less than \$5,000 to have six-page menus converted to Braille, produced at the Tennessee School for the Blind and delivered to restaurants.

Teddy bear bought for \$17,100

LONDON (AP) — The owner of a teddy bear store paid £8,900 (\$17,100) for a rare 78-year-old teddy bear, Phillips auctioneers said. Phillips spokesman Jacques Barber said the black teddy bear, made by Steiff in Germany in 1912, was purchased by Jane Pout, who owns a teddy bear shop with adjoining museum in Witney, Oxfordshire, 100 kilometres northwest of London.

British woman prefer tea after making love

LONDON (R) — Millions of British women like nothing better after making love than a nice cup of tea, according to a survey published Monday. Reinforcing Britain's position as a nation of tea drinkers, the poll in Chat magazine found that one woman in four likes to put the kettle on after love-making. Tea is also popular in a crisis. Three quarters of the 10,000 women surveyed said they needed a cup of tea if they heard bad news.